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ABSTRACT

What Hans Christian Andersen and the Grimm brothers achieved by collecting stories from the common people that had been handed down orally from generation to generation is also achieved in this collection of folktales consisting of 45 fables and 65 tales and short stories. This publication, addressed to educators, anthropologists, and specialists in Mongolian studies, offers cross-cultural studies and can be used in the classroom by discussing the Mongolian world of thought and ideas expressed in these stories and fables. The study and discussion of these folktales provides an initial step to awaken interest in today's Mongolian people and their different ways of living. These tales contain the Inner Asian sense of humor and sarcasm, and many of the fables are a discussion of how animals received certain attributes or are about family relations. The volume is illustrated with photographs. (SM)

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MONGOLIAN FOLKTALES

Collected by

KEVIN C. STUART

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MONGOLIAN FOLKTALES

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EDITORIAL PREFACE

What Hans Christian Andersen and the Grimm brothers achieved in their time by collecting stories from the common people which had been handed down orally from generation to generation , did KEVIN C. STUART these years by collecting Mongolian folktales. Stuart, an educator, used his manifold contacts with the Mongolian population while teaching from 1984-1987 at colleges in Inner Mongolia, and presently at the Qinghai Medical College in Xining, to gather hundreds of Mongolian folktales. His extensive travels led him into all the Inner Mongolian Aimaks (counties). Here he witnessed the original lifestyle, camped in the yurts of the hospitable Mongols, ate the presented mutton, drank kumis and xar erech, and then after chanting and dancing the stories were told. Thanks to the tremendous help of friends like Almas, Shelear, Jerektoo, Delger, as well as many others, it was possible to have these tales properly translated into the English language, thus enabling interested people in the West to gain a better understanding of the Mongol cultural tradition.

The sketches and illustrations have been contributed by the native Hohhot artist Li Xue-long, a graduate of Inner Mongolia Teacher University's Art Department. Delger, Inner Mongolia University, has to be credited for his animal designs, resembling their Mongolian names in the Uighuro-Mongolian script. Special thanks to Marianne for her tremendous help with the typing.

This publication is addressed to two groups: to those who just enjoy the wit and gist of these short tales which have their own Inner Asian sense of humor and sarcasm; and, to educators, anthropologists and mongolists. Especially for the fields of anthropology and education does this publication offer a unique possibility for cross-cultural studies. The Mongol world of thought and ideas, expressed in the attributes which the various animals in the stories receive, open up manyfold topics for discussions, workshops and papers, etc.

The fact that the Mongol Empire once was the largest empire the world has ever seen, and the various impressions this mighty power engraved in the traditions and cultures of the subjugated peoples from China to Vienna and Cairo, shows the many fascinating cultural blendings which derived from the military superiority of the Khan's armies.

As the US and Mongol governments established diplomatic relationships in early 1987, it would be wishful that the awereness of the average American concerning this new partner would go beyond the dark myth of Chinggis Khan. The study and discussion of these folktales might be a first step to awaken more interest in today's living Mongolians and their different ways of living, thinking and acting in a world which becomes smaller and smaller, so small that it takes today not more than 15 hours to actually travel by air to Mongolia.

Bloomington, Easter 1988 Holger K. Grimme

I N T R O D U C T I O N

by Dr. Larry Moses
Indiana University

Since the Mongols were a nomadic people, it is not hard to understand that oral literature would fit into their lifestyle perfectly. The memory of the bard was the only necessity by which a library of literature could be transported from one group of herdsmen to the next. What more inspiring setting could be provided for the telling of heroic tales than the open steppe and a starlit sky? The products of this popular literature of the Mongolian tribes cover many genres, and include epics, songs, fairy tales, historical tales, animal fables and satirical stories.

Mongol folk tales have received a great influence from the Buddhist religion, and folk tales of India and Tibet, with which Mongolia has had a long period of cultural and religious relations, are quite popular in Mongolia. Some of these foreign stories were taken over by the Mongols entirely and locations as strange to Mongolia as a seashore or plants as impossible for cultivation as the palm tree are mentioned as if they could exist in Mongolia. Other tales have been considerably changed by the addition of elements peculiar to the Mongol society, and the Mongols have even created entirely new tales based on the Indian models. In the latter case the true talent of the story-teller for improvisation was brought out.

This oral literature of the Mongols predates and highly influences the written literature. However, the high development of oral literature and its ease of transmission as compared to the production of written texts and their dissemination must have worked to severely hamper the beginning of printing among the Mongols, and could at least in part be blamed for the dearth of written materials thus far recovered between the start of the 13th century, when writing first existed with the Mongols, and the 17th century, when the resurgene of Buddhism and the opening of many monasteries made writing on a large scale more attractive and feasible for the people of the steppes.

Not all of Mongol folk literature consists of tales of great length. There are numerous short animal legends and fables. The general theme of many of these is to relate how an animal received a certain attribute. These origin-legends are not always confined to animals, although animals usually play an important role. For example, there is the tale of how the horse-head fiddle, a Mongol musical instrument, originated. In this story a prince meets his beloved every evening by flying to her on his winged horse, and leaving each morning before dawn. The woman wishes her lover to remain, so she cuts the horse's wings. The prince leaves on his horse, but after the horse flies into the air he cannot keep flying and is killed when he crashes into the desert. The prince survives but is despondent at the loss of his horse. The horse turns into a horse-head fiddle so that he might remain a companion to the prince. This is a typical example of a shorter Mongol folk tale.

* * *

Source: Larry Moses, Stephen A. Halkovic, Jr.
INTRODUCTION TO MONGOLIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE,
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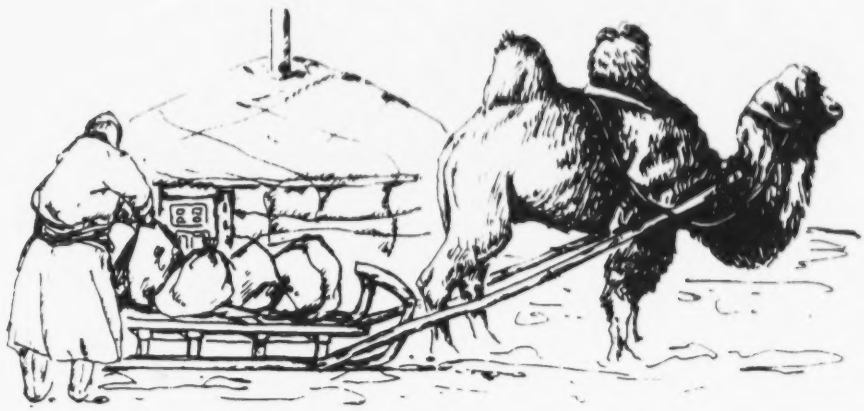

THE MOUSE AND THE KHAN'S ELEPHANT

Long ago, there lived a khan and a big tree was near his home. A mouse lived in a nest under the tree and a bird lived in a nest in the tree. The khan had a proud elephant, which always scattered grass that the mouse had gathered for his children.

One day, the mouse said to the bird, "The khan's elephant always scatters my grass and I wand to suggest to the khan that he please should control his elephant." The bird said, "Nobody will listen to us," and paid no further attention to him.
Neverless, the mouse still went to the khan, sat on the wall and repeated his message for the whole day.
"What sound is that?" asked the khan. "A mouse is shouting," answered his servant. The khan summoned an interpreter, who knew the languages of nine animals, and asked, "What is the mouse saying?" "The mouse said,'The khan must drive the elephant back from the tree. The elephant always scatters grass I gather. If I become angry, I will destroy the khan's palace,'" the interpreter translated.

The khan asked, "How big is the mouse?" "He ist as big as a ball of horsedung." answered the interpreter. "If he likes, he may become angry," said the khan and paid no further attention to the mouse.

The mouse ran back immediately and said to the bird, "The khan said that if I like, I may be angry. I will be angry and frighten the elephant. If so, the elephant may destroy our nests, so let's move our children to another place quickly." The bird replied arrogantly,"If you want to move to another place, then please do because I am above, in the tree."

After the mouse moved his children to a far place, he collected some grass and took it to the original place and waited for the elephant, hiding under the collected grass. After some time, the elephant came to eat the grass and began scattering it. The mouse suddenly darted into the elephant's trunk. The elephant felt a terrible itch in his trunk and ran about. He struck the big tree causing it to topple. The bird's nest was destroyed and all the bird's eggs were broken to pieces. Then the elephant smashed through the khan's palace wall and destroyed the palace.

The mouse exited the elephant's trunk, sat on a wall, and began to speak. The khan asked the interpreter, "What is the mouse saying?" "He said, 'Because the khan ignored me, I frightened the elephant. How are things now, after the khan has despised another person? How is the proud bird? How is the elephant who has eaten grass others collected?'" translated the interpreter.

The khan regretted his fault and said, "I did not think that a small animals would have such wise ideas."

The bird also awoke and followed the mouse to build a new nest and begin a happy life.

THE LAP-DOG AND THE CAT

Long, long ago, there lived an old man and an old woman. They had three sons and one day they gave three liang of silver to each and said, "Please go to the city and buy what you would like," in order to see if they could live independently.

The three sons started off, taking their own money, and went to a crossroad which branched in three directions. The oldest son went on the north branch, towards the northwest. The second son chose the middle branch road which ran towards the west and the youngest went on the south branch which ran in a southwest direction. The two older brothers went to remote cities and returned home after several days, bringing with them what they had purchased, which they were very fond of. The youngest went to a city, strolled in some markets, but found nothing that he liked and decided to return home.

While resting beside the road on his return journey, he saw someone passing, leading a lap-dog. He played with the lap-dog and asked the man, "Brother, would you sell this lap-dog to me?" The man answered, "I will sell it to you for one liang silver." The youngest brother bought the lap-dog for one liang silver and sat down. Then he saw a man passing, leading a cat and also bought it for one liang silver, because he liked the cat. He continued his journey, carrying the cat in his arms and leading the lap-dog, and came to a sea. There he found a fisherman pulling in a net. In the net he saw a goldfish, which the fisherman put into his basket. The goldfish was still jumping. The youngest brother thought that the fisherman wanted to eat even a small fish like the goldfish and so gave him his last liang of silver, and then set the goldfish free in the sea. Then he went home, carrying the cat in his arms and leading the lap-dog.

At this time, his parents were admiring what the two elder sons had bought and their apparent ability of living independently. They also were longing for the youngest son to return, bringing with him what he liked very much.

Then the youngest son entered and greeted them. His parents asked, "Dear son, what did you buy with your three liang of silver?" The son replied, pointing to the lap-dog and the cat, "I bought them." The parents immediately lost their feeling of happiness and drove him out of the home saying, "We don't want to see you or hear from you again."

The youngest son went out, leading the lap-dog and the cat, and returned to the sea coast where he had saved the goldfish. The three had no house there and suffered from having no way to make a living. The cat said, "Brother Man, please build a hut. I am going to hunt mice and Brother Lap-dog, please transport my catch." Then Brother Man built a hut, the cat hunted mice and the lap-dog transported the cat's catch. They were able to live so.

One day, a man wearing black clothing came to the hut, riding a black horse, and said, "Our king is inviting you."

"Where is your king?"

"He is in the sea."

"I can't enter the sea."

"I will let you ride behind me!" The cat advised, "Brother Man, please ride behind him and go into the sea. We both will stay here." Brother Man heeded the cat's advice and went away, riding behind the man in black.

At the sea-coast, the horseman said, "Please close your eyes." Brother Man closed his eyes and after a moment, the horseman said, "You may open your eyes." Brother Man opened his eyes and found a twinkling crystal palace. Then he was told, "After you pass three gates, you will see the King of Water and his madam. Please don't be afraid of them, you should greet them, calling them 'Father King' and 'Mother Madam'.

Brother Man passed three gates and saw a white variegated snake lying on a blue silk seat. When he said, "Father King, how do you do?" the snake became a person. He saw a red variegated snake lying to the left on a yellow silk seat and greeted, "How do you do, Mother Madam?" And then the red snake became a woman. The king and his madam said to him, "Please sit on the right seat," and said to their servant, "Where is our son? Please call him and tell him to come see this person." When a clever and handsome boy entered, the king and his madam asked together, "Is this the person who saved you? The boy answered, "Yes". Brother Man wondered what the meaning of their conversation was.

"When our son played near the sea-coast and fell into the fish-net, to be killed, you saved his life. We hope that you both will become sworn brothers in the future." Then Brother Man remembered that he had saved the goldfish.

He then lived in the crystal palace and was never hot, cold, hungry, nor thirsty. One Day, the madam told Brother Man, "Please go outside and see something you will like, with your brother, my son."

He walked outside with the son and saw pearls, coral, gold and silver, each preserved in an individual house. They were glittering as a manycolored rainbow. He remembered the lap-dog and the cat left in their hut. The prince saw his countenance and asked, "What are you thinking now, Brother?" Brother Man replied, "I left a cat and a lapdog in my hut. I am missing them now." "If you want to return home, you can tell Fahter. He must help you to go home. When you return home, don't bring gold, silver and animals. Please ask Father to give you the upper-most pearl of the three that he keeps under his pillow. These three pearls are my three elder sisters and the upper one is my eldest sister who has never married.

If the five domestic animals living here are sent to your earth, they will become fish. If the gold and silver preserved here are sent to your earth, they will become soil. Only my sister, who consists of pearls and jewels, will supply everything that you need," said the prince.

Then Brother Man went to the crystal palace and said to the king, "I am poor and live near the sea-coast with a lap-dog and a cat. Now I hope to return to my home." " Well," the king replied, "you may take gold, silver, and animals according to your desire." Brother Man then said, "If you wish, please give me the uppermost

of the three pearls that you keep under your pillow."

The King of Water then smilingly gave the pearl to Brother Man, who was weeping. When the horseman came and Brother Man sat behind him in preparation to leave the prince came to say goodbye and reminded him again, "You must bring the pearl with you and keep it with you constantly. In this way, you can get anything you need from the pearl."

Brother Man went through the sea and came to his hut. The lap-dog and cat welcomed him and asked, "Brother, where have you been and what did you get?" "I went to the King of Water and got a good pearl," answered Brother Man and then told them its abilities, which were capable of supplying anything its owner wanted.

The cat said, "Brother, we will eat boiled mutton and drink warm milk tea." Next morning, when they awoke, they found mutton and the milk tea before them. That evening, they said, "We will have beautiful yurts and many more animals." They found that all they wished for became reality. They also found that they slept in marten skin quilts and a beautiful woman was boiling the milk tea for them. They wore good clothes, made of marten fur and blue silk, and washed their faces with water from a silver wash-basin. They stepped out of the yurt and found many many animals grazing all over the grassland. The three then began their happy life in this way.

One day, a king who lived in the south sea-coast area took a beautiful woman as his young queen and asked from the guests attending the wedding, "How is my queen?" Everyone, except an old woman, said, "As beautiful as flowers, as pretty as a leaf." The king came up to the old woman and asked. "When everyone was praising my queen's appearance, why were you silent?" The old woman glanced at the queen and said craftily, "She is beautiful, but not as beautiful as the wife whose husband lives on the north sea-coast."

"Then, can you bring her to me?" asked the king. The old woman replied, "I can, but I need a tree named Gandir." "Alas, how will we get the gandir?" the king asked. "If you order the astrologers to gather and let them search for it, you can get the gandir," the old woman told him.

The King then ordered all the country's astrologers to gather and eight astrologers assembled. The king ordered, "You must find some gandir trees within eight days. You eight must come here whether you can or cannot find the gandir. If you can, I will reward you, if you cannot, I will have your heads." And then sent them off to search.

The eight astrologers went in eight different directions. One

sought for seven days and found nothing. He was worried and said, The seventh day has already passed. How will I get the gandir in only one day?" and lost consciousness. When he revived, he found he was lying under a tree. At that moment, a crow was flying to the tree from the south and a sparrow was also flying to the tree from the north. The two birds then began to talk.

"I heard that the king of the country will cut off the eight

astrologers' heads." "Ok, so I can eat the eyes of eight astrologers, but why will the king cut off their heads?"

"They didn't find any gandir."

"Is there a tree called the gandir?"

"Of course, there is, but please don't talk about it while sitting in these trees. Maybe there are some evil men here!"

"Oh, it's impossible, please tell me about it."

"This tree which we are both sitting in is the gandir. I haerd that there is a man who can understand the languages of nine animals. If they learn of these trees, they will cut them down and we will have no trees to sit in."

The astrologer lying under the tree listened to this conversation and went to all of his fellows at once. The the eight astrologers cut two gandir trees and sent them to the king and were rewarded.

The king said to the old woman, "I have the gandir tree, now, please bring the beautiful woman to me!"

The old woman used the gandir tree as a walking stick and with its help, crossed the sea. Then she dressed as a beggar woman. When she went to Brother Man's hut, the lap-dog went out of the hut and wanted to bite her. The beggar woman cried, "Ah! This lap-dog wants to bite me, a pitiful old beggar woman." Brother Man went out of his hut and asked, "Who are you and where are you from?" stopping the lap-dog. "I am a pilgrim, going to pray for the Holy Banchen. I have gone a long way on foot and am now exhausted. Can I rest for several days here?" said the beggar woman. "Yes, yes, you can," Brother Man said and had her eat, drink and rest.

After several days passed, the old beggar woman not only learned that the house was made by the pearl, but also learned from Brother Man's wife that the pearl was worn around Brother Man's neck. She warned the wife again and again, "It is very dangerous to carry the pearl and your family will be doomed. Why don't you keep it in an iron case and wrap it with silk?"

One evening, Brother Man felt his back itch, took off his undershirt, and had his wife scratch him. The old woman saw the pearl hanging from his neck and said, "You should preserve it in an iron case and wrap it with some silk."

"Yes. That's a good idea. There is some danger if I carry it around my neck." said the man and wrapped the pearl with a silk hadak and placed it in an iron case. Then they slept.

When Brother Man, the lap-dog, and the cat awoke the next morning, they found that they were sleeping in their old hut and that the beautiful wife, the good yurts, the fence, the many

animals and the gold and silver were all gone. The old beggar woman was also gone. Brother Man remembered that the son of the King of Water had admonished him concerning the pearl and was full of regret, and put his head in his arms.

The cat said, "Our pearl must have been stolen by the old beggar woman. I and Brother Lap-dog will go to pursue her and brink back our pearl." They both hunted mice and said, "Please eat these mice, drink the water from the sea, and wait for us, and then they departed in pursuit of the old woman.

They came to the coast, the cat rode on the lap-dog's back, and the lap-dog swam across the sea. When they arrived at the other side, the lap-dog's nails and fur were gone. He was not able to go on with the cat. The cat had the lap-dog rest at the coast and went on. He then came to a beautiful city and saw a woman walking beyond the palace and found that she was Brother Man's wife. They greeted each other and the wife asked, "How are they?". "Brother Man is crying with regret and holding his head in his arms. And Brother Lap-dog came looking for you with me and when we crossed the sea, he lost his nails and his fur was torn off. Now, he is resting on the coast," narrated the cat.

"That pilgrim that passed several days in our home was a monster and not human. She stole the pearl and set it to the king of this country. There is a house made of three layers of walls at the west of the palace. The king often lies in the house, with the pearl in his mouth. Three lines of guards defend the house," said the wife and gave the cat some medicine, saying, "Please take this to your Brother Lap-dog."

The cat returned to the sea-coast and had the lap-dog take half of the medicine and smeared the other half on the dog's body. The lap-dog recovered his health and his nails and hair grew out.

Then they both went towards the city and walked outside, thinking of some way to get the pearl from the king's mouth. At that time a mouse was about to pounce on a small sleeping sparrow. The cat grabbed the mouse and the lap-dog blew on the sparrow to awaken it. The sparrow flew up and said, "I will reciprocate your kindness in saving me. If you have some problems, please tell me." When the cat was about to eat the mouse, the mouse was frightened and pleaded, "Please spare my life! I will offer my services to you to the best of my ability." The cat said, "If you can lead us inside the king's house and take the pearl from his mouth, I won't eat you." "Of course, I can do this. However, when we enter and leave the house, it is very difficult, because there are many guards posted there," said the mouse.

The sparrow was listening and said, "If it is night, it is very easy to enter and go out of the house, because I can blow out the lamps that light the gate and house." The cat and the lap-dog agreed to this idea and waited for night to come.

The mouse dug a hole under the gate and opened the door. The sparrow flew into the house and blew out all the lamps. The lap-dog and the Cat then ran into the house while the guards were becoming agitated. The cat approached the king's bed and tickled his nose with his tail. This made the king sneeze and as he did

so he blew the pearl out of his mouth. The lap-dog picked up the pearl and put it in his mouth and led the cat away. They both went to the sea-coast where the cat again rode on the lap-dog's back. While they were crossing the sea, the cat asked with a grieved air, "Why do only you carry the pearl? We both recovered it. It was not only you!". "I'm only afraid that you may lose it, because you always move about so much. If you want to put it in your mouth, please do," said the lap-dog and gave the pearl to the cat.

The cat put the pearl into his mouth and they swam on. Then they felt very hungry and tired and discovered a fish crossing in front of them. The cat wanted to grasp the fish and opend his mouth and in so doing, dropped the pearl into the sea. They came to the north coast of the sea and the cat was very worried and was sobbing. They they went along the sea-coast to look for some food and found some fishermen who had caught a big fish. They took the flesh of the fish and left behind the intestines. While eating the intestines, they found the pearl they had lost at sea. They both were delighted and went towards their home. The lap-dog put the pearl into his mouth for the cat said, "Because of my envy, I lost the pearl. Now, please put it in your mouth."

Brother Man had stayed in the hut alone, eating mice and worrying about the lap-dog and the cat every day. One day, he suddenly saw that they both were coming in the distance and went to greet them. They both returned the pearl to Brother Man.

Brother Man put the pearl about his neck and the next morning, they found that their good yurts were standing as beautiful as before, many animals were grazing all over the grassland and the beautiful wife was again boiling milk tea. So they resumed their happy life again.

THE GOOSE AND THE FROG

A long time ago, two geese and one frog lived in a lake. One day their lake dried up because of a drought and the two geese decided to fly in search of another lake and take their friend, the frog, with them. The frog asked, "You both can fly, but I can't. How shall I go with you?" The geese replied, "We both will hold the end of one stick in our bills. Then you can grasp the middle of the stick with your mouth." They then executed this plan and took off. While in flight, they passed above a yurt. The family members looked up through the yurt top opening and said, "This is marvelous! Who thought of such a clever plan? Two geese carrying one frog!" The frog heard this and yelled, "It was my idea!"But upon opening his mouth he fell to the ground.

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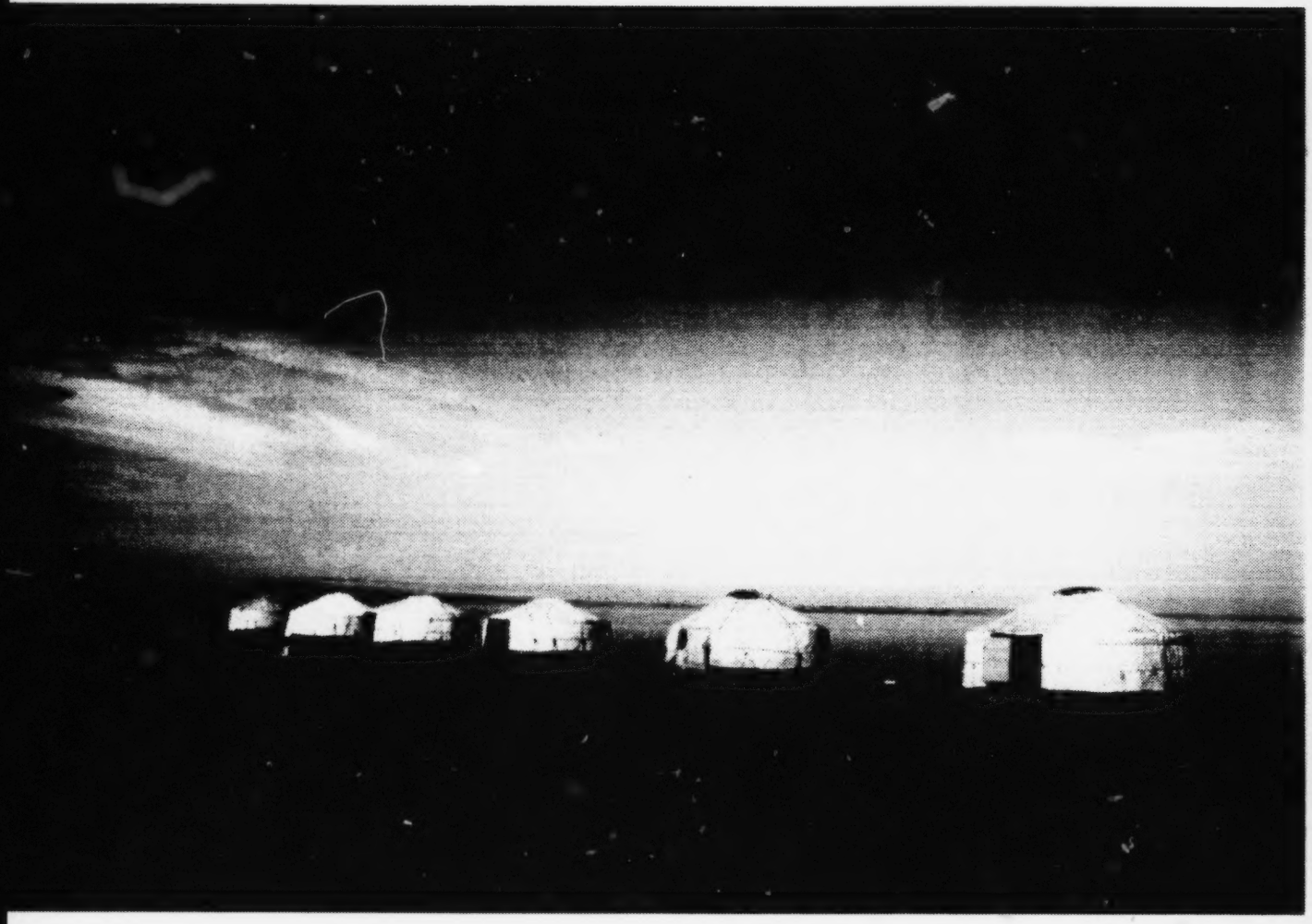

SEVEN MICE

Long ago, there lived seven mice who were brothers. One winter day it snowed a little on their small piece of land. When the brothers got up in the morning they swept the snow away, and found a piece of butter. They had the youngest brother keep the butter but he began to lick the butter and in the end he ate it all. Then the brothers quarrelled and took the case to a cat because they couldn't solve the problem by themselves.

They said, "We are seven blood brothers."
The cat indulged them, "OK, you are many brothers."
"We have land as big as a hand."
"So, you have so much land."
"It snowed on our land."
"You met with disaster."
"We swept the snow away in the morning."
"You are really industrious."
"We found a piece of butter, then."
"You certainly were blessed."
"We had our youngest brother keep it."
"You appointed him to be the storehouse keeper."
"But he licked it and ate it all."
"So he became an ogre."
"And we beat him together."

"Oh, poor young brother. He was in danger of dieing from your beating." said the cat and then lept to snatch one of the seven mice. He had been thinking of eating them and had been waiting for an opportunity. The six mice felt, losing one brother to the cat.

* * *

WHY THE HORSEFLY CAN'T TALK

A long time ago, Horsefly Guai flew to a place where Carnivorious Mangus lived. Mangus asked the horsefly, "Horsefly Guai, where are you from?" The horsefly replied, "I am from Rose-Apple Continent. Mangus then asked, "What skill do you have?" The horsefly responded, "I can bite and suck." "Then please return to your Rose-Apple Continent. I don't know what Rose-Apple Continent animal flesh tastest like. So, please bring some of the tastiest from your continent to me!" Then the horsefly returned to Rose-Apple Continent, and after having sucked man's blood determined that human flesh was the tastiest of all animals.

While the horsefly was returning to report the results of his test, he met a house swallow. The house swallow asked him, "Why are you in such a hurry?" The horsefly responded by telling the swallow all that had transpired. "Of all the animals, whose flesh is the tastiest?" the swallow inquired. Horsefly Guai replied, "The flesh of black-haired men is best and I now am going to report this to Mangus Guai."

The house swallow meditated, "This villian wants to persecue mankind," and bit off the horsefly's tongue. The horsefly escaped to Mangus and roared, "uuuuuuuuuuuuuu," because he couldn't speak. Mangus couldn't understand him and told him to leave.

From that time on, the swallow thought all insects were harmful and ate them, and lived on the roof of every family's house, always catching insects. Also, from that time on, the horsefly was dumb and could only make the sound, "uuuuuuuuuuuuuu".

* * *

THE FOX AND THE BIRD

Long ago, a bird became the friend of a fox, loved him and always followed and obeyed him. Conversely, the fox often thought about how to cheat the bird.

One day, the fox said to the bird, "Dear Brother, let's plant some wheat. We both will work and divide the harvest equally." The bird agreed.

They both went to the field to plant the wheat. The fox was very lazy and avoided labor by saying, "The situation is very dangerous, because the sky is about to fall down now. I am going to go to the small mountain and support the sky. If I don't do this, the sky will fall and crush the wheat." The bird was frightened to hear this news and said, "If this is true, I am sorry that you will work so hard."

Then the crafty fox went to the small mountain and slept for half a day. When he returned to the field, the industrious bird had finished planting the wheat.

The wheat ripened for harvest and it became time for them both to reap their harvest. But the fox felt lazy and cheated the bird, saying, "The black clouds are coming and our wheat is in danger of becoming wet. Please harvest the wheat and I will go and check the clouds."

Then some black clouds came from the north and the fox squatted and made some motions with his hands as though he were checking the clouds. The bird then lost his suspicions and worked very hard. The fox saw him and laughed in his sleeve that the bird was so foolish.

When it became time to thresh the grain, the fox said, "Dear Bird, I am going to prevent the wind from blowing away our wheat." The pitiful bird threshed the wheat alone while the fox slept under the sunshine, hiding from the bird.

The bird finished the threshing and called out to the fox. "Fox Guai, please come and let's divide our wheat." When the fox heard these words he ran very quickly to join the bird, saying "OK, here I am." The bird then asked the fox, "Fox Guai, how should we divide our wheat?" The fox answered, "I should have nine tenths and you should have one tenth, because I have done such hard work - supporting the sky and checking the clouds and wind are very difficult to do." The bird responded, "Well, let's divide it as you suggest," and gave nine tenths to the fox and only one tenth to himself, sobbing he could bear the situation no longer.

Then an hound came and saw the bird sobbing, and asked, "Small bird, why are you sobbing? Who has treated you so roughly?" The bird told him all that had happened. The hound listened and became very angry saying, "The fox is a very cunning animal. You

should not be friend with him. Let's find a way to teach him a lesson!"

The next day, when the fox came to the wheat, piled in the husk, he found a large ear protruding from the pile of wheat. The fox thought the ear must be tasty and pulled at it with all his strength. Suddenly the hound lept out of the pile and seriously bit the fox. The fox struggled with all his power and fled. Then the hound helped the bird to take the wheat to his nest.

From that time on, the bird was not freindly with the fox and labored by himself for himself. And the fox was hungry every day and ran through the forest.

* * *

MR. BILLY GOAT

There was once an arrogant billy goat in a family's flock of sheep. Billy Goat Guai never took care of his flock and only knew how to seek pleasure and make merry.

One very cold winter night, when black clouds covered the sky and a storm arose, the billy goat frightened the sheep with the help of his long horns and searched for a comfortable place to lie down in the sheep enclosure. He met the ram and thought that the ram would be frightened of his great glorious horns and would offer his place to him. But the ram continued to lie and neither worried nor was frightened. The leader of the goats saw that the ram had no intention of giving him his place. He was angry and walked away, cursing the ram, and thought about butting him. The oldest sheep of the flock lay in a corner of the sheep pen. Billy Goat drove away the oldest sheep, using his anger at the ram, occupied the old sheep's place and slept comfortably.

During the night, a wolf crept into the pen at the base of the pen wall and bit the billy goat's leg, wounding him. The billy goat's wound was very painful and he groaned loudly the next day. But no one had any pity for him. He felt wronged and was very angry.

Some days later, he decided to fight a decisive battle with the ram and went to the ram. The ram stood, paying no heed to the billy goat's challenge. The billy goat lost consciousness and fell to the ground. When he revived he felt that his head had become lighter and found that his horns had been broken.

Form that time on, the billy goat's aristocratic role in a flock sheep came to an end.

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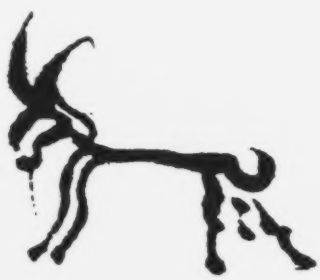

THE WISE BUSTARD

A long time ago, there was a queen who usually behaved very unreasonably and always desired to eat what others had great difficulty in getting. One day she told the king that she wished to eat the brains of all the birds of the world. The king listened to his wife's request and then issued an order to his officials, "Find and gather all the birds from over the world in three days. If anyone dares not obey my order, his head must roll at once!"

The king's order spread far and near and all the birds were greatly astonished and discussed among themselves how they might escape the king's order. The bustard spoke up and said, "Don't be afraid of this. I have a good idea. All of you go to report to the king first." All the birds then gathered before the king, except for the bustard. After three days, the bustard arrived and desired to report the reason for his tardiness. The king was enraged and demanded, "Why are you so late?" The bustard responded, "I did want to come within three days, but a minister called me and asked, 'Which is longer, the day or night?'" The king queried, "Well, how did you answer?" "I replied that the day is more then the night. Then, as I continued my journey here, another minister called me and asked me, "In the world, are there more men or more women?" The king asked, "How did you answer?" "I replied that the man who is afraid of his woman really belongs to the woman category and that there are thus more women than men."

The king was very ashamed upon hearing this and set all the birds free.

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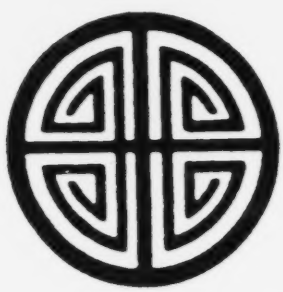

THE CONFERENCE AT WHICH THE ANIMALS SELECTED SYMBOLS FOR THE TWELVE YEARS

The cat liked very much to sleep while the mouse always was very fond of being active. One day the cat said to the mouse, "Please call me early tomorrow morning. I will go to the conference at which all the animals will select animal symbols for the twelve years.

The next morning, the mouse put on his new clothing and went to the conference very quietly. The cat slept very late and missed the conference because the mouse had not called him. Mr. Elephant announced at the beginning of the conference, "Our great conference, at which all the animals will select animal symbols for the twelve years."

One big-headed animal, who was wearing beautiful new clothing and was standing at the back of the hall, wanted to shame the smallest animal, the mouse, before the assembly said, "Mouse, how large you are!" The wise mouse listened and told the elephant, "The animal who has a big head says I'm big animal," and the elephant replied, "If this is so, you would be the first symbol of the twelve years."

The camel listened to this and was very angry, saying, "I am so much bigger than the mouse, why do I not become the symbol for the first of the twelve years?" He argued with the mouse and lay down to block the entrance to the hall.

To this the elephant said, "Which of you is the first to see the sunrise shall be the first symbol of the twelve years." The camel was very happy with this decision and lay down facing east, and waited for sunrise. The mouse did not lose courage and climbed upon the camel's head, covering the camel's eyes with his body, so that he could see the sunrise first.

Then the elephant declared that the mouse was to be the first symbol of the twelve years. But then the camel made the case that his eyes had been covered from the sunrise by the mouse. The elephant comforted the camel and said, "Although you were not selected to be the first symbol of the twelve years, your body does contain the twelve animals' characteristics. You have the ears of the mouse, the feet of the ox, the paws of the tiger, the lips of the hare, the neck of the dragon, the eyes of the snake, the mane of the horse, the wool of the sheep, the legs of the monkey, the chicken's crown, the hocks of the dog, and the tail of the pig." Then the conference ended.

Because the mouse had attended the conference at which all the animals had selected the symbols for the twelve years and also because he had been chosen to represent the first of the twelve years, he was so happy that he ran to his room and told the sleeping cat about it. The cat was very angry and said,"Why

didn't you call me and why did you go alone?" and reached out to grasp and eat the mouse.

This is why the cat always catches and eats mice.

* * *

THE GOATS CROSSING A BRIDGE

A black goat wanted to cross a narrow bridge to eat fresh grass on the opposite side of the river. He walked some distance on the bridge and found that a white goat was coming towards him. The two goats then met at the middle of the bridge, which was too narrow for the two to pass each other.

The black goat suggested, "Please return to the other side and let me cross the bridge first." The black one responded, "No, will you please return to the riverbank and I shall cross the bridge first."

Neither of the goats would give way to the other and fell to quarreling and butting each other. At last, they both fell into the river and drowned.

* * *

THE LION AND THE GOAT

A long time ago, there was a herd of goats. Every day, they grazed at the foot of a mountain and then at night returned to the place where they spent the night.

One night, all the goats came back except for one old goat. The old goat was so tired that he couldn't return, so he went to the nearest cave to rest. But, to his great surprise he found a large lion living in the cave. The old goat thought to himself, "I have given myself to the lion as his dinner, now I'm doomed to die. What shall I do in this dire situation? Try to escape? It's impossible. The situation is already fixed. Well, I'll do my best. Let's see who has the most courage."

Then he pretended to be a special envoy and approached the lion. The lion took note of this and thought, "Why does this old goat have so much courage? Generally, goats all flee from me. What does it mean? There must be some secret here. I want to get to the bottom of this."

Very softly he asked, "Old Goat Guai, where did you come from and what are you doing here?" The old goat replied, "I am an envoy from heaven. Now, I am gathering ten lions and one hundred tigers in order to prepare a dinner for a conference of deities. This is by the order of God. I am very happy and grateful to meet you here."

The lion was astonished upon hearing this and said, "I shall go to the river and wash my face, then I will come back to receive you. Please wait for just a moment." Then the lion left the cave and ran away at his fastest. While racing away, he met a wolf who asked, "Dear lion, why are you in such a great rush?" The lion described what had happened in great detail. The sly wolf listened to this story and then said, "Mr. Lion, I have a good idea, please don't be afraid. We both shall return to the cave. There we shall share a delicacy."

Then they both returned to the cave. The old goat looked at them and understood the crafty scheme of the wolf and said, "Wolf Guai, I ordered you to bring me three lions! Why have you brought only one?" The lion was angered upon hearing this and roared, "You are very cruel and shameless! You have a tongue as sweet as honey but a sharp knife hidden in your heart. You had some dealings with the envoy of heaven and wanted to kill me, your brother!"

The lion then powerfully clutched the wolf's neck with his strong paws, killing him. While they struggled, the old goat escaped to his camp and met his followers and they continued to live happily.

* * *

THE CROW AND THE HEDGEHOG

Long ago, a fox, a crow and a hedgehog became sworn brothers and lived together. Each of the three went out and searched for food in the mountains every day.

One day, when the fox was looking for some food there, he fell into a hunter's trap. The crow and the hedgehog both waited for the fox that night and at last the hedgehog went to look for him and found him near a bush. The fox pleaded, "Dear brother, please save me quickly!" The hedgehog thought, "There is no benefit to me, even if I do set him free. So, it is best to find a way out and then eat him." Then he halfheartedly bit the trap three times and said, "My teeth can't cut through it, I'll go and call Brother Crow." He then went and lay down behind a bush and waited for the fox to die.

The crow waited for the other two to return and as they didn't he decided to go out and look for them. He found the fox but because he had no teeth, he was very worried. When he saw the hunter who had set the trap coming, he thought of a plan and said to the fox, "When he comes here, you must pretend to be dead. Afterwards, I shall help you!" and then he flew away.

The hunter came and was very glad to find a fox in his trap. Taking the fox out of the trap and thinking him dead, he then threw the fox over his shoulder and set out for his home. Then the crow swooped down at the hunter, beating his wings against the hunter's face. The hunter was angry, threw the fox on the ground, took out his bow and shot an arrow at the crow. The fox quickly ran away. The hunter's arrow missed the crow and instead killed the hedgehog who was hiding behind a bush.

This is the source of the proverb --- "The arrow which was intended for the crow found the hedgehog!"

* * *

THE CAT TEACHES THE TIGER

A long time ago, the tiger appointed a cat to be his teacher and learned jumping, leaping, scratching, howling, and some other professional skills. Then the tiger began to think, "I am so big and brave that calling him teacher is unsuitable and disgraceful for me. Given the chance, I will annihilate the cat."

One day the tiger met the cat in the woods. The cat greeted the tiger in a deep vioce, "How are you my pupil?" The tiger, running towards the cat, shouted, "Why do you insult me by calling me a pupil, you small cat?"

The cat climbed up a tree. The tiger had not yet learned the skill of climbing, so he had no alternative but, with his mouth dripping with saliva, to look up at the top of the tree, where the cat was sitting.

The cat lectured, "You are a bad animal who falls far short of other's good intentions. Having learned a little knowledge, you would kill your own teacher." At hearing this, the tiger slunk away in silence, his tail between his legs.

* * *

THE KITE AND THE CONDOR

The condor met the kite and asked, "Don't you feel lazy when you fly above the ground? If you were not afraid of flying higher, you would see more beautiful scenery." The kite, though frightened at the idea of flying higher, dared not say so and lose face so flew speedily with the condor.

After a few moments, the kite was tired and frightened and said, "I want to go down." But the condor replied, "You already have come this high, now you must continue to fly upwards!" So the kite had to continue. The condor then suggested, "Please look down, isn't this view majestic!" The kite responded, "I can see nothing." The condor observed, "I see a mountain on which one thousand sheep are grazing and a herdsman is drinking a bowl of milk and eating some cakes. There is a hair from a horse's mane in his bowl of milk." The kite didn't believe the condor, smiled, and shook his head disbelievingly. The condor suggested, let's fly down and have a closer look." So they flew down to the top of the mountain and saw exactly what the condor had described. The kite was very surprised and acquired a new admiration for the condor. When the kite next met the condor, he found him caught in a trap and some children were standing around and tormenting him. The kite was puzzled and asked, "Why is it that you were trapped, since you could see a hair from a horse's mane in bowl of milk from a great distance?" The condor answered, "To escape destiny is most difficult. Someone may cross the boundless ocean, but sometimes he will likely slide down in the mud. And though someone may survive a way, he may die of a stray bullet!"

* * *

FOUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Long ago, a pigeon, a hare, a monkey, and an elephant all lived together among the beautiful trees of India. One day they held a discussion, "We should select someone to be our elder brother and respect and follow him. Of course, we will still live together as friends." They then sought the eldest among them.

Nearby, there was a growing tree and the elephant said, pointing to the tree, "When I was a little boy, the tree was only as tall as me and I often rubbed against it." The monkey said, "When I was little, the tree had no branches for me to play in and had no shadow for me to rest in." The hare said, "When I was little, that tree was only some sprouts and I ate some of them." Now it was the pigeon's turn, "I dropped the seed of that tree here so that it could grow."

Thus it was determined that the pigeon would be the eldest brother, the second eldest would be the hare, the third eldest would be the monkey and the youngest would be the elephant. Because they had decided that younger brothers must respect the older brothers, the elephant let the monkey sit on his back, the monkey allowed the hare to sit on his shoulder, and the hare permitted the pigeon to sit on his head. Then the pigeon took seeds and fruit from the trees and gave them to his younger brothers.

The four had such great respect and a spirit of helpfulness and friendship that they lived together very happily.

THE TIGER AND THE ANT

Long ago, there was a tiger in a secluded mountain in which many animals lived. the tiger always thought he was the greatest hero of the animals. One day, having slept under the spring sunshine, the tiger awoke and went with great difficulty up to the top of the mountain, disheveling his beard and hair, in order to breath fresh air. He gazed in all directions, raised his tail and showed his power, and said, "Is there an animal who is more powerful than I in all the world? All are in fear of me!" Suddenly, he heard a vioce deriding him and laughing, "Ha! Ha!" The tiger flew into a rage and roared, "Who is mocking me?" And though he looked in all directions, he could find nothing. He was very angry and said, "Quick! Come here! Damn you!" When he again heard the, Ha! Ha! I am here! Please don't be angry!" The tiger was so angry that he roared and echoes rang throughout the mountain valleys. He found nothing around him, Although he looked in all directions, raising his mane. The tiger was enraged and astounded and said, "If you are a brave man, come here!" I want to fight a decisive battle!" Then he heard, "I am here."

The tiger looked down and found an ant standing beside his paw and speaking. The tiger made no answer, wanted immediately to stomp the ant and raised is foot. The ant dodged the upraised foot and said, "Mr. Tiger, please don't be angry. Although we are small, we would like to have a contest with you." Hearing this, the tiger laughed loudly and said, "OK, ok I'm standing here and will wait to see how you will fight with me!" The ant returned to tell this to his companions and they passed on the news from one to the other and from one to ten and from ten to one hundred and so an. At last, countless ants gathered about the tiger, all with the same purpose. The tiger was still unshaken. The yellow variegated tiger became the black variegated tiger. Ants squeezed into his ears, eyes, mouth and covered all his body. The tiger was unable to bear this and when he licked his back, the ants went into his mouth. And when he scratched his ears with his claws, the ants went there too. The tiger had no alternative and began to run in an unseemly fashion. Although he ran and ran till he had used up all his strength, he couldn't free himself from the ants, and begged, "Please save my life! Please save my life!" The ants taught this lesson, "Though you may be powerful, you are alone. And if you are small and weak, if you are united, you can defeat any powerful enemy."

* * *

THE CAMEL AND THE GOAT

The camel is tall while the goat is short. Both animals think that their individual stature has great merit. "Being tall is the most valuable thing in this world. Please just look at me. See how tall I am?" the camel bragged to the goat. The goat replied, "No, being a dwarf is the most precious thing in this world. Please just take a look at me. See how short I am?" Then they both fell to arguing.

The camel then announced, "I shall demonstrate to you the merits of being tall." To this the goat rejoined, "I shall demonstrate to you the merits of being short."

Then the two animals walked to a large walled compound. The camel raised his head above the wall and ate some leaves from trees growing inside. Observing that the goat could not reach the leaves, the camel said, "This is evidence for the advantages of being tall."

The walled compound had a low door. The goat looked at it, walked through it, and began to eat some grass inside. The camel was not able to go through the door and the goat said proudly, "This is evidence for the merits of being short."

An old ox had observed and suggested that being tall and being short both had their merits, but, also, each was not without its shortcomings. "There will be more advantage for you both if you respect and help each other. So don't throw away what little advantage in life you might have!" he adised.

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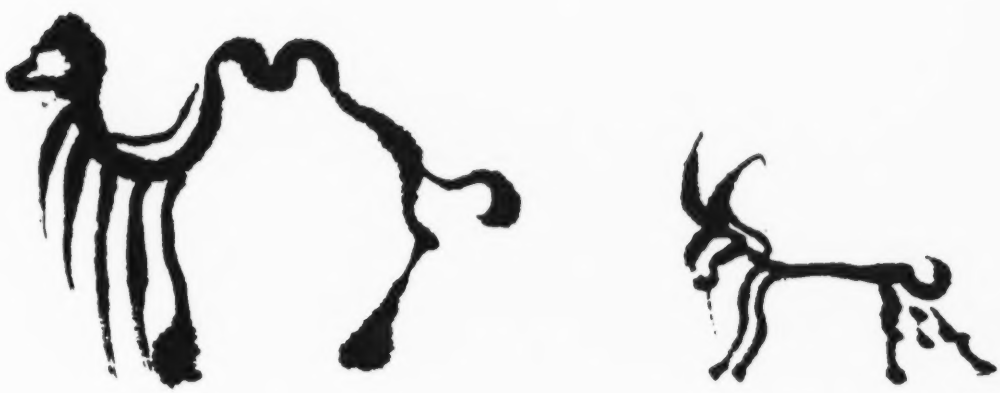

THE DONKEY FRIGHTENS THE TIGER

Once, when a donkey went to a mountain to eat some grass, a red and striped tiger roared and came angrily running. At that moment, the donkey looked up and saw some bird eggs lying on the ground. The tiger came up to the donkey and questioned, "What are you?" "I am the long-eared great khan who occupies all the world," intoned the donkey and asked the tiger, "Who are you?" "I am the violent king of he mountain," answered the tiger. "I want to eat you!" The donkey then offered a proposal, "Let us fight each other, and in the end the one that wins will eat the one that is defeated." "All right, that sounds like a good idea," the tiger agreed confidently, "How shall we fight?" "We will stamp our feet on the rocks and squeeze the water from it," the donkey said, "The one who squeezes water out will be eaten."

"Yes, if you can squeeze out water from that rock, then so can I," challenged the tiger. The tiger stamped as though to break the rock, but couldn't squeeze any water out of the rock. "Please watch me," the donkey directed. Then very quickly he put one bird egg on the rock, like a magician, so the tiger was not aware of it. Then he stamped the rock and what he saw so frightened him that he fled away, shitting. A wolf met the sweat-covered tiger. "Mr. Tiger, why are you running in such a hurry?" the wolf wondered. "I made a bet with the long-eared great khan who occupies all the world and I was defeated, so I am now fleeing. The tiger then related all that had just transpired. The wolf judged, "You were deceived by that feeble donkey. I usually grab donkeys and eat them and now I will snatch one to give you. The wolf then found a rope and tied himself to the tiger and put one end of the rope about his own neck and then they went forward together. As soon as the donkey saw the wolf, he brayed loudly. Upon hearing this sound, the tiger said, "The long-eared great khan is going to eat me," and turned his head and fled. After running over three ravines, he turned back to look at the wolf whose teeth were bared in a very cold and dead smile. The tiger thought that the wolf was still alive and laughing at him and said, " This may be a joke to you, but it isn't to me." Then he continued to run all the more quickly.

THREE BLACK CROWS

Three black crows were traveling together and happend to find a dead fish. Each of them tried to take it for himself. One of them suggested, "We ought to leave it here and he who shall come here the earliest tomorrow shall eat it." The other two accepted this idea. As they flew away, each crow remembered one landmark by which he could find the dead fish and then have the fish all for himself. One remembered a blue rock as a landmark, which was beside the dead fish, the second remembered a white cloud above the fish, and the third took note of the red sun above the fish. Making notes of their separate landmarks the three crows flew away.

The next day, the three crows located their landmarks. The one who remembered the red sun flew towards the east, the one who remembered the white cloud flew westwards, and the one who remembered the blue rock flew to the dead fish and ate it with great relish.

* * *

THE HORSE

The horse occupied the vast grassland and made it his own pasture. One day the deer stole some grass to eat when he crossed the grassland. The horse chased the deer but could not catch him, because the deer ran faster than the horse. The horse developed a deep hate for the deer and went to man and consulted with him about how to take revenge. Man said, "If you will submit to the bridle and saddle, I will ride you and try to catch the deer." The horse was impatient for revenge and agreed. Only after he had been bridled and saddled did the horse realize, "I have lost my freedom to man in order to take revenge on the deer."

* * *

FINDING A PROTECTOR

Long ago, a sheep and a goat became sworn brothers. One day the sheep visited the goat and began weeping. The goat was surprised and asked, "Dear Brother, what has happened? We can find a way to deal with it together." The sheep said with watery eyes, "The both of us don't have enough strength for self-defense. If someone attacks us some day, what shall we do?"

The goat laughed and said,"Since the days of our ancestors, we have been living from generation to generation in this, our homeland ....." The sheep interposed, "But we can't be absolutely positive that there is no enemy preparing to eat us." The goat considered a moment and asked, "Then what is your idea?" The sheep replied, "I think ....." became confused and then continued, "... how do we find an owner as our protector?"

"Find an owner?!" responded the goat. "Yes, we should find an owner who can protect us!" the sheep explained. The goat was silent for a moment and then said, "Then please try according to this idea." The sheep was aware of the goat's unwilling agreement and assured, "Please put your heart at ease. I will not do anything to upset you!"

Some days later the sheep came with great pleasure to the goat. To his great surprise, the goat did not recognize the sheep for he had lost his white silk dress and sometimes shook himself. The goat was concerned and asked, "What happened to you?" The sheep shook himself once more and said high spiritedly, "I have found a good owner. Please look at me! My owner has been very busy all noon, sweating all over, and taking my dress in order to make me nice and cool. How pleasant the feeling is!" The goat was silent and the sheep went on to say, "Dear brother, please believe me! You won't suffer, if you follow me."

The goat did not wish to upset his brother's kind expectations and felt anxious that there might be some danger. But, in the end, he decided to follow his brother sheep and went down from the mountain, leading his offspring.

Their lifestyle slowly changed now that they had an owner. The owner let them go by themnselves to the grassland during the day and had them sleep outside his home, guarding him at night. But after some time, the owner followed them and limited their play when they grazed on the grassland during the day and put them in a pen at night. The goat complained that they were losing this freedom, but the sheep was content with the existing state of affairs.

One day, the goat told the sheep, "The situation is becoming very serious. Our owner felt my back, legs and chest with his hand, accompanied by another stranger." The sheep shook himself several times and soothed, "Dear Brother, please don't make a

fuss. The owner always pets us with his hand. Maybe he wishes to thin your dress because your dress is thick enough to make you hot."

Two days later, the owner brought a comb and combed the goat's fine hair. The goat was relieved and admired the sheep's ability to foretell the future.

As time went on, the sheep and the goat had more and more offspring and became old. The owner began to feed them and they became fat. The sheep was grateful for the owner's care but the goat passed these days with suspicious thoughts.

On a late autumn day, the owner stroked the sheep's back, legs and chest. The sheep thought, "My owner is petting me," and stood very meekly. Then the owner threw the sheep down and tied his four legs with a rope. The sheep thought, "He wants to take off my clothes." When the owner came with a sharp knife, the sheep thought, "It is rediculous for the owner to decorate my dusty hair, as if I were young." When the owner pushed back his forelegs with his left hand, the sheep thought, "Why does the owner wish to massage my arms?" When the owner slit his chest with his sharp knife, the sheep thought, "Why is my owner playing with me in such a rough way?" Only when the owner pushed his hand into his diaphragm and tugged to break his aorta did the sheep want to cry. "Don't play a joke!" But he was too late to shout and only tears fell and he died, kicking the air aimlessly.

Because the sheep never knows why he is killed, he is silent when he dies. But the goat is a wise animal and knows the owner's intentions by his appearance. Thus he cries, "We have come down from the mountain and given ourself to the owner. And how does this end? Our mistake was earlier and our regret is too late!" and censures his brother when he dies.

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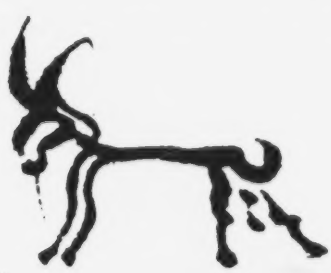

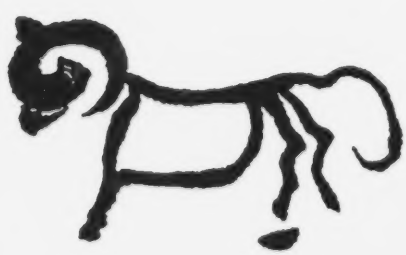

THE FOX AND THE CRANE

One day when a fox finished hunting and was on his way home, he met a crane with a long neck and of grey color. He asked, "Who are you, Sir? And what are you doing now?" The crane said, "I always fly above the sky and sleep on the grassland as my home. I am hunting now. And who are you, Sir?" The fox squatted on his rear legs and said, "I also live by hunting, I am returning home." As he was leaving he said, "I welcome you to be a guest in my home."

The next day, the crane flew happily to the fox's home and the fox received him in his home and asked with an attitude of concern, "You must be tired?" The crane said, "No, I am not tired. Are you very busy?" "Not very busy," answered the fox and put a steaming hot dish of watery gruel on the table in front of the crane and said, "Please have this, cooked with mutton soup."

The crane didn't know how to eat the watery gruel because of his long beak, and looked closely at the dish. The fox said, "Why are you observing the dish? Please enjoy the meal." The crane was worried as to how and eat and the fox said again and again, "Please eat well." After a while, the fox said, "Did you eat to your fill?" and the lapped the gruel himself, finishing it very quickly.

The crane had eaten nothing and was very hungry. While he was leaving he said, "I am inviting you to come to my home tomorrow." As he flew to his home, he had some idea of the fox's nature.

The next day, the fox dressed very beautifully, and went to the crane's home. The crane greeted him and said, "Are you very tired after your trip?" Then he entertained him warmly and put a very sweet and condensed dish of rice in front of him, which was in a beautiful bottle with a long thin neck. He then said, "Fox Guai, please eat and don't stand on ceremony!"

Although the fox stretched out his long tongue and licked the bottle several times, he was unable to eat. He thought as to how and at the food and went around and around the table while the crane said again and again, "Why are you so polite? Please eat as if this were your own home!"

The fox went around the bottle, circling it again and again, for a long time but could not eat even a morsel of rice. At last the crane asked, "Did you eat your fill?" and then stretched his beat into the bottle and ate, finishing the contents very quickly.

The fox was very embarassed and went home, scratching his head and with his tail between his legs.

THE CAT AND THE DOG

When a family moved to another place, they left a cat and a dog at their old place. The cat and the dog had many problems. They were short of food and lacked a place to live. The dog pitied the small cat and always divided his findings with him.

The dog went to hunt the marmots and susliks every day while the cat slept and awoke to eat the flesh of the animals the dog had hunted and caught. Thus the cat became very fat while the dog became very thin. Although the dog went to search for food all day long, the cat went to hunt mice secretly and ate to his fill.

Then there came a time when there were no more marmots, susliks and mice near where they lived so they both had to move to another place where there was more food. When they moved to another place, they were hungry and very thirsty and the cat had no power to continue. The dog had him ride on his back and they went on until they found a mole digging a hole.

The dog had the cat get off his back and then stole up to the mole and grasped it. He gave the mole to the cat and the cat ate it all, closing his eyes in contentment.

They continued on and the cat saw a dead crow hanging from a tree branch and thought, "If we both divide the crow, neither of us will be full." He then said, "Brother! Brother! A hare is running over that mountain pass, please run and catch it. I'm too hungry to bear it any longer."

After the dog ran off, the cat lept, caught the dead crow and ate it with the bone and feather. But a bone stuck in his throat. He was very worried and was strangled, stretching out his limbs. When Brother Dog returned in a moment with a hare to give the cat, the evil cat died, cratching his own throat with his claws.

THE GREEDY GULL

An old gull was very hungry and was about to die beside a lake. A fish saw his condition and asked, "Brother Gull, why are you so sad?" The gull replied dishonestly, "The water of the lake is about to dry up and we are going to die. I am anxious about this." The fish believed what he said and asked him how to survive. The gull answered, "There is a lake behind the mountain. It is never dry. If you go to that lake, you will be very happy all your life and never been in danger of death."

"You know that fish can't leave the water. Can you help us move to the lake?" asked the fish. The gull agreed, "Yes, I shall take you to the lake."

The next day, the gull called the fish, took him to the back of the mountain, put him on a flat rock, and ate him. Then every day, he moved fish to the flat rock and ate. One day, a frog came out from the lake, pushing through many fish, and asked, "Please take me away." The gull noted the frog's plump body and took him. When the gull was about to put the frog on the rock, the frog saw fish bonesand and unterstood that the gull had been doing a trick. He then seized the gull's neck very tightly and strangled the gull to death.

Then the frog hopped back to his lake, told the fish about the gull's trick, and thus avoided a future danger.

* * *

THE HARE THAT LAPPED THE WINE

One time an old man carried a bottle of wine out onto some ice, stooped down, poured the wine on the ice, and then went away with sadness.

A hare saw this, came out on the ice, and lapped the wine. Then he felt his head swim and felt dazed and drunk.

As a result of his intoxication, the hare had more courage and power. He went into a mountain forest and shouted, "Where is the animal's khan, the lion? Can he catch the fastest animal, the hare?" The lion heard and came asking, "Oh, Hare, what did you say just now?" The hare listened to this and was suddenly very worried and said, "I have talked nonsense because of the side effects of the liquor," and ran off.

* * *

WHY DOES THE COCK CROW IN THE MORNING?

Long ago, the cock had beautiful feathers. One day the peacock came to him and they became sworn brothers. Then the peacock admired the cock's feathers and began to think about getting them. The peacock said, "Brother Cock, you have glory as great as the phoenix, a voice as sweet as the oriole, beautiful feathers and a comb of high rank.

I came here today and would like to borrow your beautiful feathers." The cock listened to his words and was pleased saying, "You may borrow them. When will you return them to me?" The peacock said, "I shall return them to you before dawn tomorrow." Then the cock gave his feathers to the peacock and the peacock left.

But not only did the peacock not come the next morning, he never returned the beautiful feathers to the cock. From that time on, the peacock became very beautiful.

The cock yearned for his feathers and awoke before dawn, crowing, "Please return my feathers to me."

* * *

THE ORPHAN WHITE YOUNG CAMEL

Long ago, there was a rich man and an official. The rich man wished to become related to the official through marriage and gave one hundred white camels as a gift to the official. But the rich man lacked one white camel to make the full number and decided to give a female camel, leaving her calf which she had been nursing, as an orphan. The camel calf sobbed with many falling tears because of this.

His owner made the young camel stay in his yurt which had five wall sections and blooming flowers of five colors. But the young camel still sobbed, despite these surroundings and the yurt household was touched by his suffering.

Later, the young white camel escaped, walking over a mountain range in the direction of the Gobi Desert, in search of his mother, deshevelling his hair and sobbing pitifully.

The horseman, Agsaldai, sent by the rich man, rode his fastest horse, holding a ten fathom long catch pole made of iron and the skin of tigers, caught up with the young camel. Agsaldai said, "I want to make my dog's mattress from your useless skin and cook your small flesh to feed my servant," and drove the young camel and tied him to an old black camel's neck, beating him all the while with his long and weighty catch pole.

The young camel continued to sob and the old camel asked, "Why are you sobbing with such sadness?" The young camel told him all that had happened and the old camel said, "Please let me spend the night comfortably. I will bid you farewell at dawn." The young camel spent the night silently and the old camel saw off at dawn.

The young camel went again over the mountain range in the direction of the Gobi, dishevelling his hair and sobbing. The horseman Agsaldai caught him again and drove him as before, but this time, tied him to a vigorous camel's neck.

The young camel still sobbed with sorrow. So the vigorous camel asked the same question as the old camel and the young camel gave the same answer. The vigorous camel said, "Please go to find your beloved mother and enjoy her sweet milk and love," and sent him off.

The young camel went over the mountains toward the Gobi, sobbing with sorrow and dishevelling his hair. The horseman, Agsoldai, came again with his fastest horse and said, "I have seen many orphans, but I have never seen such an orphan as you," and died.

The young camel continued his travels and met a wolf leading two cubs. "Why are you crying so loudly?" asked the wolf, "I want to eat you." The young camel told her first about his tragic lot and said, "If you want to eat me, please yourself!

If you want to eat my front part, I give you my long and sweet neck. If you want to eat my lower part, I give you my four soft paws. If you want to eat my upper part, I give you my two beautiful humps. If you want to eat my side, I give you my flat ribs. And if you want to eat my rear part, I give you my two hocks."

The wolf heard what the young camel said and responded "I have seen many orphans, but I have never seen such an orphan." She then ate one of her own cubs and ran away.

The young camel continued to travel toward the Gobi and met a tigress who was leading two cubs. The tigress spoke the same words as the wolf and the young camel gave the same response as he had given the wolf. The tiress also ate one of her cubs and went away.

The young camel continued his journey, sobbing with sadness, and came to a thick grove through which no one could pass. But the thick grove heard the young camel's sobbing and opened a road for him.

The young camel crossed through the thick grove and continued to go and then came to a sea which no one could sail across or detour around. The young camel was worried and wept with sadness.

A tortoise which was a big as a yurt appeared and asked, "Why do you disturb others?" The young camel told him what had happened and the tortoise said, "I want to devour you." The young camel answered as he had answered the wolf and the tigress, and the tortoise said, "I have seen many orphans but never have I seen such an orphan as you," and then helped him cross the boundless sea.

The young camel went over many mountain ranges in the direction of the gobi, disheveling his hair and sobbing a sorrowful melody and then heard his mother's voice in the distance which he had spent three years of travel to hear. And his mother heard his voice at the same time. The official imprisoned her in a pen which was made of three tiers of iron and where thirty thousand guards kept watch.

After hearing her son's voice, the mother broke through the iron pen and killed the thirty thousand guards and was reunited with her son. The young camel was content and nursed his mother's sweet milk. His mother had a premonition that she would be killed by the official and told her young son, "My dear son, please go up to the top of the south mountain. A yellow camel like me will come to you, then you may nurse her sweet milk!" "I have seen and nursed you just now. Why should I leave you?" asked her son. His mother insisted and forced him to go to the top of the mountain.

Indeed, many many warriors did come and kill the mother. The young camel went to where his mother had been killed and found that his mother's two eyes were staring and that her two ears and nostrils were still moving.

The young camel covered his mother's head with his warm chest and slept. But he was frightened awake by a killer's presence. The killer said, "Will you give me your mother's head or your own life?" The young camel was afraid and went up to the top of the mountain where the yellow female camel, whose voice was like his mother's, was coming. The young camel nursed her and they both had a happy life later, because they found a good owner.

* * *

DIVIDING BUTTER

Two small hares lived together near a mountain. One summer day, they went together to the grassland, ate some fresh grass and happened to find a container of butter. They realized that someone had lost it and wanted to return the butter to the owner.

Then they met a fox with yellow silk paws, a conical long snout, and a big bushy tail who said, "You both are so strong that you can carry such a heavy container of butter. I really admire you." The two small hares told him their task and wished to continue their search. The fox said, "It is already night and it is impossible to find the owner of the butter, so we should divide the butter to eat," gazing at the butter and coveting it.

"Our parents often taught us that each person is responsible for his own life and happiness depends on one's own labor. This is someone else's butter. We should not own it but should return it to its owner," said the white hare and prepared to go on. The fox said, "It is very difficult to find anyone in this boundless grassland."

Brother Fox's disposition became more gentle and the other hare was persuaded by his words and said, "Maybe it's not possible to find the owner so it is a good idea to divide the butter to eat," and his position began to waver even further.

It is very fair to divide what we find on the steppe. The aim of life is getting food. You both were fated to receive this butter. God has granted it to you and I am appointed to divide it," said the fox and took out his knife, saying, "I want to divide it into two parts through the middle," and divided the butter into two parts. "Because of my old age, my eyes have become weak. This part is bigger and I should eat enough of it to make the two parts equal," said the fox and ate some at once, unceremously, smiling and flattering, "You both are very wise and powerful. Now, we don't have any guide, so why don't you two have a race and the fastest one will earn the bigger part."

The white hare understood the fox's secret aim and ran into some trees with the other hare. After they had run away, the fox was glad and tried to eat all of the butter very quickly.

"A hunter is coming, We must escape from him, " the two hares announced upon their return. The fox believed this and was worried, saying, "Where shall we run?" "You should follow us, we know where to go," the white hare said. The fox walked very slowly, reeling and stumbling. He had eaten so much butter that he was in a daze. After a moment, he fell into a hunter's trap. The two hares said, "God rewards you with an iron-trap for your division of the butter."

Later, several children came and beat the fox with long clubs until he was dead.

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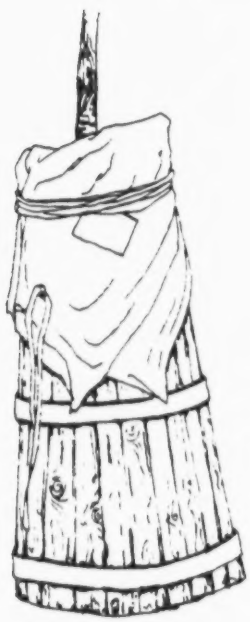

THE TIGER AND THE HARE

When a brutal tiger came down from a secluded mountain, he met a small hare and thought, "This small animal isn't enough for my dinner. I think I'll frighten him to see his awkward behavior to divert myself from boredom," then he shouted very loudly, "Stop! Small Hare." But the hare still ran on his way as if he had not heard. The tiger became angry, thinking, "This blasted idiot, how dare he keep running after I ordered him to stop."

Then he roared and leaped at the hare, saying, "Maybe you didn't see me but you must have heard me. Why did you continue to run when I ordered you to stop?" The hare said proudly, "Of course, I know you are a tiger, but I am now going to meet with the king of all the animals." The tiger said, I am the king of all the animals."

Hearing this, the hare was surprised saying, "I have heard that the lion is the king of all the animals but I have not heard of you." The tiger threatened, "Don't talk nonsense! Please tell me why you want to see the king of alle the animals!" The hare replied, "Tiger Guai, I bring the order of God and can't tell anyone anything more than that." The tiger was very angry, thinking, "this villain wants to make a fool of me," and said, "If you won't tell me what the order of God is, I shall kill you!"

The small hare pricked his ears up and said, "You must have become the king of all the animals and rule them. Ok, I have received the order from Heaven appointing hares to be imperial bodyguards. Having received this order, I have been searching for the king of all the animals." The tiger heard and said, increduously, "You are so small and yet you want to be a bodyguard. It is too absurd!"

This is the order of God, if you don't believe it, then follow me and we will go through the mountains and the grassland and see the animals. They will escape at their fastest, saying, 'The imperial bodyguard is coming!' as soon as they see me," said the hare.

The tiger did not believe what the hare had said and wished to verify it, "Ok, but if those animals don't flee from you, I will kill you to eat." Then the tiger followed the hare and went through the grassland and over the mountains. To his surprise, the tiger found that all the animals which they met or saw ran away. The hare said, "Tiger Guai, though I am small, you have seen with your own eyes all the animals fleeing from me. This is God's order. So you should believe it!"

The tiger had not understood that the animals were fleeing from him and not from the hare.

THE PIGEON AND THE SPARROW

A pigeon and a sparrow flew towards Tibet and on the way, rested on a house. After a moment of rest they wished to fly on, but then heard a woman's groan coming from inside the house.

The pigeon said, "We should nurse this sick woman." The sparrow replied, "We have no time. We should go to Tibet soon and observe how Tibetan lamas pray and live," then he flew away. The pigeon stayed to nurse the woman.

The sparrow went to Tibet, built a nest on a temple, lived, and observed the lamas chanting scriptures and praying. After one month, the pigeon and the sparrow met and wanted to talk to each other but could not understand what the other said. The pigeon couldn't forget the sick woman's groans and cried, "Wu-hu, wu-hu." The sparrow's ears had become familiar with the lamas' chanting which was understood by no one and cried, "Jir-jir-jir-jir."

Since that time, the pigeon and sparrow have not understood each other.

* * *

THE KITE AND THE CHICKEN

A long time ago, a kite and a chicken lived together. The kite had many skills and taught the skill of flying to the chicken. One day the chicken admired the kite's beautiful dress and red head decoration and thought, "If I had such beautiful attributes, how handsome I would be!" And in time he had the idea to steal them.

Several days later, the kite held a banquet in celebration of his thirthieth birthday. Every guest drank some wine and had a jolly time. The kite was very happy with this and also drank.

After the banquet, the kite slept because of his intocication, the chicken took this opportunity to steal the kite's red flower and jewels and then escaped.

The kite awoke later and discovered that his red ornament and the chicken were missing. He understood that the chicken was responsible and flew up into the sky and desired to eat the chicken and its chicks.

From that time on, the kite has hated and always seized chickens to eat.

* * *

THE TIGER, THE FOX AND THE WOLF

The tiger came to the throne and appointed the fox and the wolf to be functionaries and they lived together in a secluded mountain. One day the three went hunting and killed a donkey, a goat, and a hare.

King Tiger asked, "How shall we divide what we have found fairly?" The wolf, rushing to be the first to answer, said, "Our dear king, because you are our king, please eat the donkey, I will eat the goat, and because the fox is small, he shall eat the hare. I think this is fair," and thought quite exultantly, "My answer must be very wise and I also will get to eat the goat. But the tiger was very angry at hearing this and bit the wolf, killing him. And then the tiger asked the fox, "What do you think about it?" The fox said, "My Dear King, I think it is very fair for you to eat the donkey for breakfast, the goat for lunch, and the hare as your supper. Upon hearing this the tiger was very delighted and asked, "How did you think of such a wise answer?" The fox answered, "I saw the wolf die so miserably and then thought of this wise idea."

* * *

THE FOX AND THE BEAR

A long time ago, a fox and a bear became sworn brothers and lived together with friendliness in a mountainous forest. When they went to find food, they always divided whatever they found equally.

One day they both went to a mountain ravine to find some food but not matter how they searched, they couldn't find any food. The fox said, "Dear Brother, please don't try to find food in such a manner. Since you have great strength, if you will only dig for the marmot in this hole, we shall get a meal today."

The bear agreed and said, "Ok, let me try, but if I meet with rocks and have difficulty, please go into the hole and pull out the marmot!"

"Yes. Please make the hole bigger and enter first, then I will follow you!" said the fox.

The bear made the marmot hole much larger and went inside. The fox then went to the top of a hill, showed himself to a hunter, and lead the hunter to the marmot hole, pretending to escape. The fox then ran into the forest, after pausing a moment beside the bear who was digging the hole, raising a cloud of dust.

The hunter came to the hole and found the bear digging inside and waited for the bear to come out. When the exhausted bear emerged, the hunter shot him in the head, killing him, skinned the bear and then went away. The fox then came and ate the bear's flesh with great relish and slept very peacefully.

* * *

THE TIGER AND THE BILLY GOAT

One day, when a tiger cub went to hunt alone, he met an old billy goat. Upon seeing the billy goat, the tiger cub was delighted at the prospect of a meal and said sorrowfully, "I saw you, old and respectable one, and remembered with great anguish my father and mother who have passed away. Alas, if my father and mother had not passed away, they would not let their son go hungry." The billy goat listened to this and said, with sympathy, "Oh, my pitiful child, you are really sorry sight. Your parents must have passed away because of hunters."

The tiger cub said, "No, no, they died because they saved some kids from a well and not because of hunters." The billy goat replied, "If that's the case, please follow me and we will have you rewarded." The tiger cub believed this and smiled, thinking, "My scheme will be realized. I will bring him to my home so my parents can have some living flesh."

Then the tiger cub suggested, "Dear Father, I think we should first go to my home and have a few moments of rest, then go to find the kids." The billy goat responded, Ok, I think that's a good idea. I'm grateful to God that he has sent me such a dear son. But first, before we have a rest, I must join a hunting party made up of all the animals who will go together to kill all the tigers." Upon hearing this the tiger cub escaped, defecting.

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THE LION AND THE FOX

The fox and the lion hunted together with the lion always carrying any game they found on his back. One day, they killed a bear and the lion commanded, "Mr. Fox, please carry this on your back." The fox replied, "OK, I can do it, but there is the other work of groaning. Can you do that?" The lion thought, "I am the king of all animals. If I follow the fox and groan, I will lose face," and said, "I can't groan, I shall carry the bear on my back and you will groan!"

Then he carried the bear on his back and went proudly on. The fox followed him and sometimes groaned. They went back to their cave where the fox ate the flesh of the bear with the lion, without the least hesitation.

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THE FOX AND THE HARE

One winter day, a fox and a hare went to search for food but found that the once-fresh grass had become dry and there were even no grass roots to nibble. The fox predicted, "Maybe we will pass today in hunger, my stomach is so empty that it is babbling." The hare agreed, "Yes, now everything is dry and it is very difficult to get food. I'm so hungry that if my mouth could reach my ears, I would gobble them down at once."

They continued their search and came upon a girl carrying a basket, from which a tantalizing odor was emanating. They supposed that the girl had some cakes. Then the fox said, "Hare Guai, please listen to me, because I have a good idea. I have heard that hare fur makes excellent gloves. You lie down and pretend to be dead. The girl, when she sees you, will be attracted to your fur and will want to pick you up. But to do that, she will have to put her basket on the ground. At that moment, I will snatch the basket and run away. Then while the girl is looking at me, you also can escape. In the end we will have a delicious dinner."

The hare agreed to this idea and lay down, pretending to be dead, while the fox hid behind a rock. The girl saw the dead hare and was very happy. She put her basket on the ground and was about to pick up the hare. Just at that moment, the fox leaped at the basket, grabbed it, and ran away. The hare stood up and also escaped.

But after a long time, the fox still ran ahead of the hare. The hare then realized that the fox wanted to eat the cakes alone. Having no ideas as to how and defeat the fox, he suddenly saw a small lake and shouted, "Fox Guai! Fox Guai! There are some fish in this lake. If we eat the cakes with fish, the taste will be very good. The fish have no power in winter. If you will just put your tail into the lake, we will catch some fish. Now, please be quick! You should do it before the lake water freezes!"

Haering this, the fox was greedy to eat the cakes with fish and put his tail into the lake water that was on the verge of freezing. After a moment, his tail was frozen in the lake ice and then the hare grabbed the basked and took it out of reach and putting a cake into his mouth, he said, "OK, my dear, please wait till the lake ice is melted and then many fish will follow your tail. Bye-bye!"

The hare took the basket and then hopped away. The fox tried to leave but couldn't and thus was left, like a dog on a leash.

* * *

THE WOLF RIDES THE BULL

A long time ago, there was an old wolf whose cave was in the ravine of a secluded mountain. When the sun rose and shone over the grassland, he returned to the ravine and then ate an orphan calf or late born kid that he had stolen in the night and had brought back with him.

When the sun set and all the animals were sleeping, the wolf stretched once and then trotted down the mountain to do his evils. The old wolf lived such a life and was never injured by hunters.

In time his teeth became dull and he became very thin. One night, he went down the mountain to try and get some food before daybreak. He came to a terrace near where a family lived and found an orphan kid sleeping there. As he was leaping to grab the kid, the kid suddenly said, shuddering with fear, "Mr. Wolf, I am not enough flesh to fill you. Why do you want to eat me? There is a colt trapped in the mud near the river. Wouldn't his flesh be fat and tasty? And wouldn't there be a lot of it?" The hungry wolf was very excited at this idea of better flesh and ran to the river. To his delight he found the colt caught in the mud, just as the orphan kid had said. When he was about to bite his neck, the calf said, "I respectfully suggest that you are not very intelligent." The wolf was angry and asked with a scolding tone, "Why do you think I'm not intelligent?" The colt said, "Do you think that if you were to eat me, covered with mud as I am, that my flesh would be very tasty? The flesh would be delicious, if it were clean."

Having heard this, the wolf thought, "He is a clever rogue," and pulled the colt free from the mud. Then just as he was about to devour him, the colt said, "May I know your name, please?" The wolf replied, I am the famous owner of the mountain." The colt respectfully replied, "If so, please look at the brand on my right flank." The wolf said, "Of course, I can see it," and scrutinized the brand with the idea of predicting the future. But at that moment, the colt struck the wolf's head with his hooves causing the wolf to fall down so heavily that his mouth filled with dirt. The colt then ran away, making a great noise by rubbing his hooves together. The hungry wolf, with his injured chin and palate bleeding, went towards his cave. When he reached a certain mountain range, he found a fat bull standing there. The wolf said very directly, "I want to eat your flesh and drink your blood." The bull answered, "As old as you are, don't you know that an old bull's flesh is nothing but hard muscle? And could you eat my flesh with your dull teeth? I suggest that we both go to a family's wedding and eat the fat and soft flesh of the sheep."

The wolf responded, "My legs feel like jelly and I can't go there." The bull kindly offered, "OK. Then I'll let you ride on me and we shall go together." "But those men who are attending the wedding will try to kill me, won't they?" The wolf worried.

The bull answered,"It is impossible for them to do such an evil thing at a wedding." The reassured wolf agreed, "OK, let's go." Then the wolf rode on top of the bull and they went to the wedding.

The men at the wedding saw them coming, prepared their bows and arrows, called the hounds and readied their birds of prey to kill the wolf. The wolf escaped with great difficulty from the dogs' pursuit to a mountain, running at his fastest speed. He then sat down and began lamenting, "That small kid was certainly my food. Alas! Alas! Why did I pull the colt from the mud? Alas! Alas! Why did I want to read the brand on his leg? I'm not the king's secretary. Alas! Alas! I am not the bride's grandfather, so, why did I want to go to the wedding? Alas! Alas!"

As he sat lamenting a pursuing hunter approached and shot him through the head.

* * *

THREE OXEN

One day a calf was grazing on the grassland with two oxen. A tiger came out of a nearby mountain and was eager to devour the calf, but was cautious because there were three cattle and he was only one. The tiger suddenly had a clever idea and decided to try it out. He roared very loudly and the three cattle ran in three different directions. The tiger was very pleased with this and pursued the calf. Though the calf cried out for help from the other two, they ignored him, thinking only of their own safety. The tiger quickly pounced on the calf, gobbled him down, and then ate the other two by using the same tactic.

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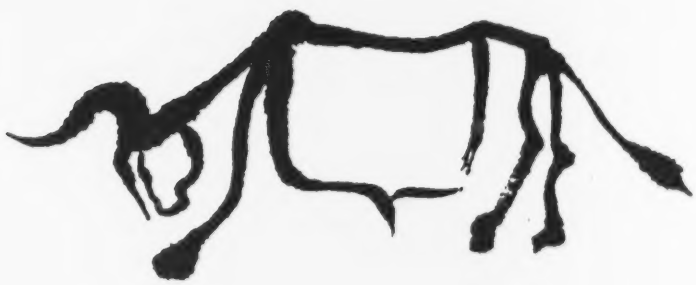

A HERD OF OXEN DEFEAT THE WOLVES

One day, a herd of oxen was grazing when a pack of wolves came fiercely running at them. Realizing the danger of the situation, some oxen wished to escape but an older ox ordered them to stop by saying. "Can you escape from the wolves? Don't be afraid of them. We have sharp horns as weapons. If we unite our strength, we can defeat these wolves!"

He then ordered all the oxen to stand in a circle with their horns together at the outside of the circle. Then the elder ox directed, "Now, we can gore the wolves. If they dare to charge, we must have great courage."

In a moment, the wolves came closer and some rushed at the oxen, but they were gored by the oxen's horns. Then the wolves divided and rushed at the two halves of the circle of oxen, but they were defeated once again. At last the wolves desperately rushed upon every part of the circle but once again suffered a crushing defeat.

The wounded wolves then had to escape in a dreadful predicament and the victory belonged completely to the herd of oxen.

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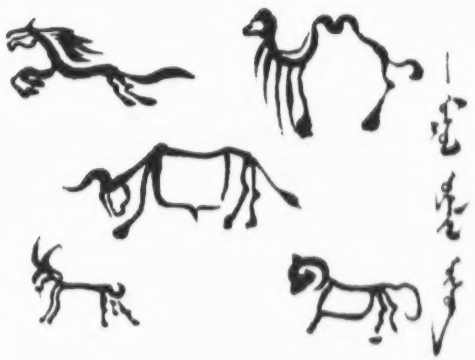

TWO GOATS AND FORTY WOLVES

Long ago, a man had only two goats. He herded the two goats every day on the mountain where there was much grass and would pull some grass to feed the two kids. One day he became ill and was unable to herd the goat and tend the kids.

The two goats then went by themselves to the mountain in the morning and when they returned that evening, one of them found the head of a dead wolf in a valley and became afraid. The other scolded, "My goodness! Why are you so afraid at the sight of a dead wolf's head? If you are so frightened by the head of a dead wolf, what would you do if you saw a live wolf? You would probably be eaten without even resisting!" The frightened black goat asked, shuddering with fear, "Well, what should I do?" The bold white goat said without even thinking, "We should put this wolf's head in our bag. If we meet some wolves, we will frighten them with this head." The black goat agreed and put the head into a bag which he hung from his neck. Just at sunset, they passed a ravine and found the head of another dead wolf. The black goat was startled and said, "Oh, there is yet another wolf's head!" The white goat reasoned with him, "Don't be afraid of it. Maybe a hunter stripped the skin and threw the head away." They took the head and continued their trip.

Dusk fell as they reached a river bank where they saw the glimmer of a small campfire. "What is that?" the black goat wondered. "Maybe some travellers are making a fire," the white goat speculated. "What should we do if they want to kill and eat us?" the black goat asked. "Nevermind, let them desire to do so, we will escape into the thick woods," the white goat answered. They then went closer to the fire and saw no travellers but forty wolves. The wolves saw the goats and chorused, "Very good! Two fat goats are coming. Let's make our fire hotter and have a good dinner."

Upon hearing this, the black goat was frightened and stopped. But the white goat said, "Don't be afraid of them. I think it is a good opportunity to try and defeat them, using every means at our disposal." So the two goats, united as one, approached the wolves.

The wolves greeted them with grim smiles, saying, "Ha! Ha! Thank you both for sending yourselves to us." The white goat responded in a dignified manner, snorting and shaking his horns, "I think it is time for killing you and drinking your blood. I am grateful to God for granting me this opportunity by which I shall fulfill an oath I once took to kill eighty wolves. Now, another forty wolves are waiting for me. Black Goat, please throw me the head of the wolf we killed the day before yesterday and let's have some new ones."

The black goat then tossed him the head. Seeing this, the wolves were nearly frightened to death. But one old wolf said, "If you show another wolf's head, I will present these wolves to you."

"If you don't believe what I've just said, the let me show you the head of another wolf that we killed only yesterday," said the white goat and then threw the other head on the ground. The wolves registered this and then escaped as fast as they could.

Then the two goats returned home in joy.

* * *

THE ELEPHANT AND THE MOUSE

A king had all kinds of jewels. One day a mouse stole the jewel that was capable of granting wishes. The king learned this and vowed to take revenge. He then had a hole as deep as a well dug in order to trap the mouse.

The mouse fell into the hole after several days and could not escape and was about to die from hunger and thirst. One of the king's elephants happened to pass by at this time and saw the mouse in the hole. The mouse pleaded, "I am in a terrible difficult situation, oh, please save me!"

The elephant the lowered his trunk into the hole, told the mouse to grasp it, and then lifted him out. The mouse was very happy and said, "If you had not come here, I would have died. I shall do something in the future to return your kindness." The elephant replied, "I helped you because I sympathized with your misfortune. You are very small, so you need not return anything."

Upon hearing that the mouse said, "Mr. Elephant, don't disregard me just because I'm small. In time you may have need of my help." And then the two parted.

Time passed and the elephant became very old. One day while walking after his dinner, the elephant fell into a ditch. He found that he couldn't get out and thought it must be time for him doe die. At that moment, the mouse that had been saved by the elephant came along and saw the elephant's predicament. He then ordered his fellows to start digging and make the ditch level. After some time the elephant was able to stand and was grateful to the mouse, saying, "I now understand that we should not disregard the small animals."

* * *

THE TIGER CUB AND THE CALF

When a rich herdsman moved to his summer pasture, he left a sick calf on the steppe. It was an orphan calf whose mother had died in a natural disaster. But the calf became very halthy because of the warm climate and the fresh summer grass.

One day, while the calf was looking for some fresh grass and water, he saw a tigress nursing her cub. The calf recalled his own beloved mother who had given him her sweet milk and was eager to nurse the tigress. He went near her, making as little moise as possible, nursed the sleeping tigress and swallowed one time. The tigress was frightened and awoke and asked, "Who dares to steal my dear son's food?" and grasped him wit her her powerful paws.

The orphan calf was terrified and begged, "I am from South Spring, and my ancestors have been loyal cattle. Though we have done our best from generation to generation to make our owners rich, my owner left me on the steppe. I an orphan calf, have nothing, so please be sympathetic." At that moment the tiger cub added, "He is very lovely and would be a good companion for me. Dear Mother, please have pity and save him." The old tigress thought, "He already has nursed me like my son. Maybe he would be a good friend for my son in the future," and stroke the calf's head with her paws, saying, "You must become a closer friend to my son than a family brother. I hope you both will unite your powers, endure all disasters together and share happiness together." Then she had them nurse her sweet milk together.

The days passed and became one month and then the months passed and became a year. Several years passed. The tiger cub now had four sharp fangs and such strength that he could leap over rocks and defeat any opponents. He was no longer a cub but a tiger. The orphan calf also changed. His four legs contained great strength and his two horns sharpened. His neck became wide and broad and the skin of his forehead became thick. He was no longer a calf but a bull. The two were the best of friends and every noon they met at the spring.

One day, as the calf grazed peacefully in the shadow of some trees, a fox approached very slyly and said cunningly, "I very much admire the strength of your broad chest, appreciate the glory of your horns, and understand the nobleness of your character. I declare my friendship forever!"

The gullible young bull believed what the fox had said and enthusiastically responded, "I would like to be your friend because of your loyal heart," and led him to his brother, the tiger.

Then the three swore to be brothers and decided that they would unite in their destiny. Hence, they lived very happily. Every noon, the fox always told some jokes and danced for the

entertainment of the other two. And more than this, he also guided his brother the bull to fresh grass and lead his brother the tiger to the mountains where there was much game. The fox grew in his influence over the others. And as time passed, his two brothers came to love him more and more.

The days passed very quickly and then it was autumn. One day the bull was grazing on a rich pasture, carassed by a gentle cooling breeze, when the fox came jogging, wearing a sad face and said with a mournful voice, "Something has happened that is so shameful and unthinkable," and then began to weep very loudly. The bull was worried and anxiously inquired, "Has our Brother Tiger met some misfortune?" "No, the mountain game have become very scarce so the tiger lacks food. Now winter is coming and everyone is preparing food." The fox gave a heavy sigh and began to sob once again. "Does Brother Tiger want to eat you?" the bull asked in amazement. "No, my dear brother, he doesn't want to eat me because my body is so small, but he would like to eat your sweet and fat flesh."

At hearing this the bull was dumbfounded for a few moments and then sought a more detailed explanation. The fox said, "The tiger went to the mountain behind us to hunt. I followed him secretly and heard him say, "It is time for winter and I am short of meat. Beef is the best meat with which to pass the privations of winter. And our calf has become a bull and is very healthy. I want to ....," and once again the fox began to sob uncontrolably.

The bull was greatly puzzled at these words which suggested some conspiracy and said, "We have never had any conflicts since we became brothers. And, what's more, we both have nursed the same mother's milk. Do you think you misunderstood what he said?" "Is your heart loyal because of drinking the same mother's milk? Is my heart hypocritical because I joined you later? I am really heartbroken that I have at last come to know your true mind, " mourned the fox and began to weep anew and then added, "I believe you as my brother and told you what I heard, as my brotherly duty commanded me. The truth of what I have said will be clear to you at noon when we drink the water of the spring. Though you may believe what I have told you is false, please be alert at noon." And the fox adopted a pitiful countenance and trotted away.

Then the fox found the tiger and repeated his former performance, weeping and saying, "I am so sad because Brother Bull has changed his heart and hates you very much." The tiger was also puzzled at these words, kept silent for a moment, and said, "Our mutual feelings make us closer than blood brothers." At this moment the fox said, "I have heard him say these things with his own lips; not from the mouths of others. When he was resting, he said you always made the spring water dirty and belittled his reputation and now he is just waiting to pierce your belly with his sharp horns. You will understand all that I've told you when we soon drink the spring water together, and then the fox left.

Thus the two good friends became bitter enemies. The bull summoned his fighting strength, sharpened his horns, and then

went to the spring. When the tiger saw the bull he was so angry that he pawed up some bushes and trees, rolled in the dust and roared loudly.

They both glared at each other and, believing what the fox had said, waited to fight. Then the fox shouted, "Oh, the tiger and the bull!" and the tiger charged the bull and slashed him with his claws. The bull tried to evade the tiger's attacks and managed to gore him. After two rounds of fighting, they both fell in a thick heap among a cloud of swirling dust.

Observing this, the fox leaped upon the two bodies, sat down on the tiger's head, placed his feet on the bull's horns, and gloated, "Your close friendship had ended by this split. Your once peaceful and happy life is now concluded in death. Now I will own your rich and broad land and will eagerly eat your sweet flesh, mouthful by mouthful."

While talking, he swung his tail from side to side, which revived the unconscious tiger who then understood the true nature of the situation. Coming to his feet in pain, he grasped the fox with his powerful paws and threw him beyond the body of his friend the bull, and then ripped the fox's body to pieces.

He than realized that the tongue of a hated enemy could be in the beginning as soft as the budding thorn and realizing this his eyes filled with the tears as he stood gazing beyond the body of his dead friend.

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THE WHITE HARE AND THE FOX

Long ago, a white hare lived near a green spring and a fox also lived there. The fox detested the white hare and wanted to eat him. The white hare knew this and did his best to avoid this danger and stay alive.

One day, the white hare thought, "How shall I escape from this fox and live in peace?" and then picked up two frozen red Chinese dates and ate one of them while passing through a family's winter camp. He found the date very sweet and thought, "The fox has never eaten so sweet a date. Although he has more power and wisdom than I, I shall defeat him with this sweet date."

The white hare then went to the spring and found that the fox had not yet come. He waited for the fox and had an idea as to how and triumph over the fox in the night. Later the fox came, weary and hungry, and looked and saw the white hare sitting very peacefully. He wished to devour the white hare and asked, "White hare, what did you eat that has made you so peaceful?" and hoped by asking this question that the white hare would not run away. The white hare took out the red date and said, "I have some red dates like this, I ate some today and now I am very happy." The fox desired at the red date and thought, "I want to eat you with your red dates," he asked, "How did you get red dates in the cold of winter?" The white hare replied, "I got them from the ice." The fox smiled with suspicion and said, "Although you are so small, you already have learned to lie. Does the date grow on the ice?"

The white hare responded, "I really did get it on the ice. When I hopped on the ice today, my tail stuck to the ice. I wanted to go but felt that my tail had become very heavy. I investigated and found some dates were sticking to my tail." The fox said, "Really?" The white hare encouraged, "If you don't believe it, you shold try!" At this, the fox stood on his hind legs and placed his tail on the ice. The white hare said, "Hey, you should place your tail where I have just sat. If my small tail could bring several red dates, your big tail should bring many."

The white hare then threw his only red date to the fox who was already sitting on the white hare's former place, and said, "If you will eat this date to fortify yourself and sit there longer, you will get more red dates." The fox was delighted upon eating the red date and then, wanting to pull his tail, felt that his tail had become much heavier. The white hare understood his intention and advised, "Don't move! Don't be in a hurry! I already see one red date. Just sit there longer, I"ll go and get some food for you and then when I return I shall help you collect your red dates." The fox agreed, saying, "Okay, thank you. I will wait for you."

After the hare had hopped away, the fox felt his tail grow still heavier and thought, "My tail can produce many red dates, many

more than the white hare's small tail. When the hare returns I shall eat him with the red dates. What a marvelous taste!" The he slept, dreaming good dreams, because of his tiredness and hunger. Night had already fallen, when the fox woke very suddenly. He felt that now his tail was now really very heavy and shouted, "Hey! White Hare! Please help me collect the red dates from my tail. Quickly!" But there was no response and the fox thought, "After I collect my red dates I will devour the white hare while he is sleeping."

Then the fox pulled his tail but it was stuck fast to the ice. And though he tried many times to free it, his efforts were all in vain. At last he understood that he had fallen into the white hare's trap: the hare had melted the ice with his own body heat, made a small hole in the ice, had persuaded the fox to immerse his tail in the water and then it had all frozen solid with the cold of night. The fox was very worried and try as he might, nothing he could do would budge his tail from the ice's grip. He then began to vomit and suffer the miseries of diarrhea. All of wich made the tail ever tighter to the ice. At midnight he died because of the cold and from his hunger. The next day, the white hare came to see the fox, and finding him dead, was so excited that he ran wildly hopping about the grassland raising a cloud of dust.

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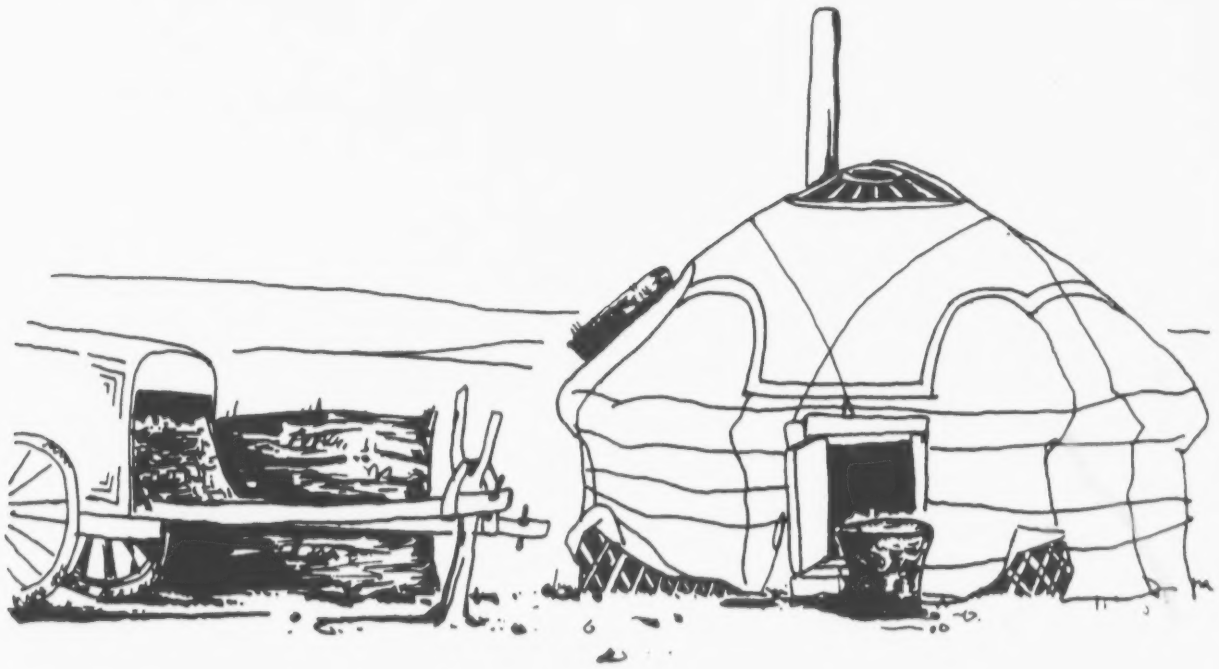

THE WOLF AND THE CRANE

The wolf is greedy, cruel and swallows food whole. One day, a wolf gulped down some food and a bone lodged in his throat, causing him to choke so seriously that he became very weak and had to lie down.

In this condition, he saw a crane flying above him and signalled him, expressing his disaster and pitiful condition in order to get the crane's help. The kind crane flew down to him and found the reason for the wolf's distress. He then stretched his long beak into the wolf's throat and pulled out the bone. Then the crane said, "Mr. Wolf, what do you wish to give me as a reward, as I have saved your life and rid you of you distress?"

The wolf stretched himself and then became angry, "Do you joke with me? What is your reward? It is your great good fortune to have extracted your beak from my mouth in peace," and cursed, "Go away from here quickly, else I will refresh myself with you as my meal." And he charged at the crane, opening his mouth, but the crane flew away.

* * *

SHATTERING THE PRIOR'S JADE PITCHER

It was a dry year. Sunshine touched everything in the world; every thing and every animal perspired and bore a terrible thirst. Balgansang was grazing cattle for a rich man. One day he bathed in the sun and, unable to bear his thirst, left the herd of cattle for a well beside a temple.

There he met the prior of the temple, who was dressed in a beautiful hat and who had brought a jade pitcher to take water as an offering to God. The prior asked Balgansang, "Why are you in such a hurry and sweating so?" Balgansang said, "How are you, dear Lama Guai?" and then drank big gulps of water from the well bucket. The prior wondered at Balgansang's haste and said, "I heard that you are good at telling tall tales. If you indeed do have such skill and can deceive me, I will greatly admire you." But Balgansang showed an angry expression and said, "Everyone believes that you are a Living God who is merciful to every creature, but now you ..... Hey, I haven't time to tell a lie completely." The prior thought that Balgansang was behaving this way because he could not deceive him and asked, "Why are you in such a hurry?"

Balgansang responded, "Don't you know that there is fire in the sky and that it is about to burn every creature?" The prior looked up at the sky where upon his expensive hat rolled about the well. The prior rushed to grab his hat but at that moment, dropped his jade pitcher which shattered. The prior was then so distraught that he smote his breast, shattering his agate snuff jar. Then Balgansang said, "Dearest and wisest Prior, did you read something about the fire in the sky in some Buddhist sutras?" But the prior was dumbfounded and could offer no response.

BALGANSANG'S REASON

Balgansang was working for a prince and always disobeyed the prince's orders. Although he knew and was able to do things well, he would say that he didn't know how or he was unable to. If he was asked to do something quickly, he would do it slowly. If he was asked to do something such as putting some object on the left, he would put it on the right.

One day the prince called Balgansang to him and said, "Everyone can see that you are foolish by your appearance. It is also obvious that you are not healthy, due to your eating and drinking habits. But why do make mistakes when you do things for me? Does it mean that you really are not in your right mind?"

Having listened to the prince's deprecations, Balgansang said, "Yes, what you have heard is true. I really do make mistakes when I do things for you. But it hasn't been decided by my foolish brain, there is another reason for it." "Well, what is that other reason?" "The reason lies with you." "What relation is there between your error and me?" "Dear Prince, if there are some good fast horses in our banner, they become yours.If there are some beautiful girls in the banner they become your maids. And if there is some good property in someone's hand, you manage to get it as taxes. So if my brain is liked by you, I'm afraid you'll take it. Thus I always make errors when I work for you!"

The prince grew angry and shouted, "Get away!"

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THE MAGICAL HORSE

One day as Balgansang rode his grey donkey over the grassland, he met the greedy Sagra, who had never before seen a donkey. "What is that animal you are riding?" Sagra asked, "This is a long-eared magical horse and anyone riding it can travel freely to Red-Apple Continent," Balgansang answered.

Sagra thought to himself, "Then I must find a way to get this magical horse from Balgansang," and said, "Would you like to exchange your magical horse for my fast ambler?"

"I can't let you have my magical horse which can travel to any part of Red-Apple Continent!"

"You know very well my horse is a fast ambler."

"But your horse isn't able to travel to Red-Apple Continent. However, we are both from the same towm. If you want this magical horse, we can exchange, although I can't exchange it for only a usual horse." Then the two exchanged animals. As Balgansang gave his donkey to sagra he said, "Constantly let out the reins when you ride this magical horse. Make sure the reins are loose, Otherwise you won't be able to control it. If you do keep the reins loose, you can travel to Red-Apple Continent."

As Balgansang was leaving Sagra he asked," Where are you going?"

"I'm going to my uncle's home?"

"Where is your uncle's home?"

"It is in the Gobi."

"What will you do there?"

"I will drive ten milk cows from there to my home."

Balgansang rode the fast ambler to Sagra's uncle's home and said to the uncle, "Sagra asked me to drive ten milk cows from here." Sagra's uncle saw the horse Balgansang was riding, believed him, and gave him the ten milk cows. Balgansang then drove the cows to his own home.

Sagra arrived at his uncle's home late that night. He had come very slowly because he had let out the reins. His uncle asked, "What did you ride?" Sagra answered, "I rode a magical horse which can travel to Red-Apple Continent." His uncle then said, "You thought to get the better of Balgansang and in fact, you have been fooled by Balgansang." And a few minutes later Sagra realized that he had not only lost his fast ambler but also ten milk cows.

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BALGANSANG GETS TEN GOOD HORSES

A proud prince was often defeated by Balgansang. After betting and losing many times with Balgansang, he became angry and at last thought of a good way of getting revenge. One day the prince gathered many people including lamas, officials, and servants and put a table before them. He overturned two silver bowls on the table and then tied ten good horses to a hitching post. Then he announced, "Well, I am going to have a bet with Balgansang before all of you." The people wondered what would happen and then the prince called for Balgansang. When Balgansang arrived, he said, "Balgansang, let's have a contest. There are two notes under the bowls. On one is written 'won' and on the other is written 'beaten'. Please select one of the bowls to turn up. If you select 'won', you will have been lucky and I will give you those ten good horses. But if you select 'beaten' then you must send me ten good horses. And if you can't afford ten horses, then you must work for me without pay for ten years!"

Balgansang wondered what wiles the prince was up to and didn't say anything in response, only, "I understand what you have said," and looked around. Then a boy, who was grazing sheep nearby for the prince, made out the prince's plot and whispered to Balgansang, "The two papers are both 'beaten'!"

Balgansang said to him, "Thanks," and then went to the table, saying to all those assembled, "All of you have heard what the prince has said. I will accept this bet." Then he thumped the two bowls and then sniffed them. While the audience was speculating what he would do next he suddenly turned up one bowl, stuck the paper in his mouth and gulped it down. Balgansang said, "I have already taken one of the two papers. Dear Prince, please take the one remaining!"

The prince was dismayed and didn't know what to do. Balgansang then said to a clerk, "Don't trouble our prince, please take the paper and read it to everyone." The audience approved this, so the clerk overturned the bowl and read 'beaten'. Balgansang then said to the audience, "Our prince is defeated this time," and led the ten good horses to his home. And the prince was left as speechless as though he had swallowed a snake.

* * *

THE PROUD BARON IS PUNISHED

Balgansang was rather well known for his intelligence. Such sayings spread as, "Wealthy men and officials are endowed with riches and Balgansang is endowed with intelligence." A proud baron heard these sayings, was disgruntled, and said, "The poor under the sky and on the earth are foolish. Intelligence only belongs to the wealthy and to officials. I shall investigate the degree of Balgansang's intelligence!" The baron's pronouncement eventually got around to Balgansang who readied himself.

One day, as Balgansang was herding some animals, he walked up to an old tree, leaned against it, and lit a cigarette. Just a little bit later, the proud baron, who was going out for a hunt, came riding by and inquired of Balgansang, "Are you Balgansang?" Balgansang replied, "Yes, what can I do for you?" leaning against the tree the whole while. "I have heard that you are very clever and can deceive everyone. Do you really have such an ability?" said the official.

"I can't say to you that I have such an ability. You know, we can't believe common rumors."

"Well, I had been hoping that I would have a match of wits with you and now we have the luck to meet here today. If you can deceive me, I will admit myself beaten and send you many animals. But if you can't deceive me, I will cut off your head with this sword!" and the official then displayed his sword.

Balgansang looked very sad and said, "Sorry. I can't compete with you today!"

"Why?"

"Because I left my intelligence in my home. If I had brought it, I could deceive even the King!"

Upon hearing this the baron became more sure of himself and said, "So, please go get your intelligence case! I'll wait for you here!"

"If I walk, it'll take too much time, so I think it's still best to give up the contest for today. I don't have time enough to accept. Please think that I don't have enough courage to accept the challenge. Let's have the contest sometime in the future."

"No. Why are you so hurried? I must have the contest with you today! If you don't want to take a long time in going to your home, then please ride my horse and go get your intelligence case."

Balgansang shook his head and said, "No, I really don't have time."

"Why don't you have time?"

"This tree which my brother planted is about to fall. I'm leaning against it to support it. My brother has gone to get a spade from home. So now you understand why I can't leave this

tree!"

"Then let me support the tree. You go on home." The baron then dismounted, gave his horse to Balgansang, and leaned against the tree, using all his strength.

Balgansang said, "Then let's have this contest, but you are a strange man, forcing me to deceive you!"

"Don't be proud too quickly. You must understand that if you can't deceive me, your head will roll!" laughed the baron loudly.

"So, I will try to deceive you but please don't be angry if you are deceived. All right now, you must lean against the tree until I return," replied Balgansang and rode away in the direction of his home.

The baron leaned against the tree until midnight, but Balgansang never returned.

* * *

THE OFFICIAL DISMOUNTS

There was once a brutal official who would beat those walking beside him and those who knelt to pay him respect. One day, when the official rode his fast horse across the steppe, leading his servants; he met Balgansang. But Balgansang continued along his way, taking no notice of the official. The official noted Balgansang's lack of respect and gew angry, "Beat that poor wretch who doesn't know the proper way of greeting an official!" he ordered his servants.

Just as the servants were about to beat him, Balgansang said with perfect assurance, "It is my mistake that I didn't recognize the official. It's the official's mistake for not wearing a mark of his rank. And it is the servants' mistake that they didn't annouce the official." One of the servants replied, "But can't you tell our official is an official by the way he carries himself?" Balgansang answered, "I can recognize the bull and the bull camel from the smell of their piss, but how am I to recognize an official without decoration?"

The brutal official then put in "Who are you? Where are you from? And what are you doing here?" Balgansang answered, "I am Balgansang and I don't have any home, I'm just wandering about." One of the servants then said, "So, it's Balgansang!" Balgansang responded, "But I a wanderer have never won honor which can compare with that of the 'Brutal Official'. Though I am a wanderer, it is enough for my happiness that I travel freely. And though someone may ride a fast ambler, it is a sad thing for such an man to win only abuse from others."

The official realized that Balgansang was talking about him and wishing to get the better of him, said, "Hey, Balgansang, I hear that you are a good liar. If this is true, you must deceive me and have me dismount.If you can make me do that I will forgive you -the punishment you deserve for having delayed us. But if you can't make me dismount, I will have your head." "Oh, it's very difficult to make someone dismount. If I had to make you mount your horse, I'm sure that would be very easy for me to do," Balgansang mused.

"Ok, then make me mount my horse," agreed the official, getting off his horse. "All right, Dear Official, thank you for dismounting!" said Balgansang. The official realized that he had been tricked and said, "You are a very vicious liar," and rode away, ordering his servants to proceed. Balgansang sang out to the departing official, "Let's bet again if we meet again." But the official went on his way without a backward look.

* * *

THE MAN-EATING GHOST

Long ago there was a ghost who would eat anyone passing by. A young man said to his family, "I am going to exterminate that ghost," and travelled to the place where the ghost was known to be.

The ghost usually asked the name of anyone he met for the first time. If the person told the ghost his real name, he would be chased, caught, and eaten by the ghost; no matter how quickly he might run.

While the young man was eating a meal the ghost came up to him, altered his appearance so that he looked like the young man, and asked, "What is your name?" The young man answered, "My name is Myself." The ghost said, "Ok, Myself, I'm very hungry, please give me some food." The young man gave him half a cake and the ghost swallowed it in one glup. Then the ghost said, "Myself, I am thirsty, please give me something to drink." The young man gave him some water and then sat down without any fear. The ghost was frightened by such behavior and went away.

After two days passed, the ghost returned but this time his appearance was that of a bloody half-skull. The young man saw him coming and put a rock in the fire. Then he waited for the ghost and ate some food. The ghost came and said, "Myself, I'm hungry. Please give me some food." The young man said, "Ok, please eat this," and put the hot rock into the half-skull. The ghost gulped the hot rock down and turned around and cried loudly when the young man ran behind a bush. After a moment, many ghosts gathered and asked, "Who did this to you?" The ghost answered, "I am defeated by Myself." The other ghosts further inquired, "Who?" Once again the ghost answered in a low voice, "Myself," and then died.

From that time on, people could pass in peace.

* * *

SEVEN GHOSTS

Long ago there were two poor brothers. One day the two left their home to find a way to live. They came to a fork in the road and planted two trees and decided that they would see their luck from the condition of the two trees. The older Brother went on the west road and Younger Brother took the east road.

As Younger Brother went on his way, he heard quarreling voices coming from a sand dune behind him. He went there and found seven ghosts quarreling over a walking stick. Younger Brother went up to them and asked, "Why are you fighting so over a mere walking stick?" One of the ghosts replied, "You don't understand. This is a magical walking stick. Its owner can get anything he wants and can go to any place." Then Younger Brother said, "Let me take it and then all of you have a race and the winner will receive the walking stick. Now, please don't quarrel with each other. Go to a place rather far away and begin the race." The ghosts then gave the stick to Younger Brother and departed to prepare for the race. In the meantime, Younger Brother rode away on the mystical walking stick. When the ghosts arrived at the place where Younger Brother had been, the found that he had vanished and so they began to quarrel again.

As Younger Brother continued on his travel he passed beyond a hill and saw that another seven ghosts were fighting over a piece of clothing. He inquired as to why they were quarreling and they answered, "This is magical clothing. Anyone who wears it will not be seen by others." Younger Brother, upon hearing this, said, "Let me suggest an idea. First, please give me the clothing." While the ghosts waited for his good idea, after giving him the clothing, Younger Brother had become invisible and had ridden away on his magical stick.

As he continued on his travels he heard more quarreling. He saw seven ghosts arguing over a bowl. Younger Brother approached them and asked, "Why are you quarreling?" One of the ghosts then said, "This bowl is magical. Its owner can have food any time he likes." Younger Brother smiled and said, "Ok, please lend me the bowl for a moment. I'm very hungry and will eat something. Afterwards, I'll give you some good advice concerning the bowl." After the ghosts gave him the bowl, Younger Brother disappeared with the help of his magical clothing and walking stick.

Happily continuing on his travels, Younger Brother heard two people sobbing and realized that the sobs were coming from under the ground. He dug away some sand and found a house buried under the ground, and an old man and woman trapped inside. He helped them escape and then the old couple asked, "Where are you going and where are you coming from?" Younger Brother then related his experiences. The two old people thanked him for saving them from their underground trap and adopted him as their son. Younger Brother created several good homes with the assistance of his magic stick and they began a happy life.

Now there happened to be a king living near them who had a very beautiful daughter. One day, while Younger Brother passed the king's palace, he saw the daughter and was very attracted to her. After returning home, he told his parents that he wanted the daughter for his wife. His father went to the king and presented the idea to him. The king thought that a pauper wished to marry the princess and that it was all nonsense. The king then decided to make a fool of the old man and said, "I will agree that Younger Brother may marry my daughter, but you must make glass cities and pave a road from your house to my palace."

The old man was worried as he told his son what the king had said. But the son said, "It is very easy. If he is willing to give his daughter to me, I can complete these things tomorrow." The following day, Younger Brother tapped his walking stick several times and the glass cities and the golden road suddenly appeared. The king had to agree that younger Brother could marry his daughter.

The king then hated Younger Brother and desired to kill him. One day he put some poison in some tea and told his daughter what he had done. But the princess truely loved her husband and told Younger Brother about her father's intentions. One morning the king invited his son-in-law to have tea. Younger Brother prepared a special drug which would counteract the effect of the poison and so was not injured, though he drank the tea. The king was frightened that Younger Brother did not die. He then ordered that Younger Brother be tied to a tree and decided that he would have him killed on the morrow. But Younger Brother put on his magical dress, became invisible and returned home. Once home he produced four donkeys with the help of his walking stick and with his parents and wife rode to the place where he had parted with his older brother.

As they came to the fork in the road, they found the tree which Elder Brother had planted was withered and on the verge of death. Thus Younger Brother understood that Elder Brother was in dire need and went off at once to find him, leaving his parents and wife behind. Younger Brother journeyed to a king's palace and discovered that his brother had become the son-in-law of the king. Elder Brother told him that since he had come to the palace, he had become weaker and weaker and now was about to die. Younger Brother discerned that the king was a devil and his brother's wife was going to kill her husband. He told this to his brother. On the following night, he found the wife stealthily leaving the room. Following her in his mysticl dress, he found that she went into a house and met a lama. The wife said to the lama, "It is too late to kill the villain because his brother has already come." The lama replied, "Oh, it doesn't matter, we can kill the two of them together. I'll go to your home in the morning. Please heat some sesame oil in a cooking pot at that time and then make them sit besides the pot. I will become an eagle and grab them and put them into the pot."

Younger Brother heard everything they said, returned to his brother and told him all. The next morning, the wife heated some sesame oil in a pot and called the two brothers to sit down besides the pot. But they didn't move. The lama was very angry and as an eagle, roosted on the yurt skylight. Then Younger

Brother grabbed the eagle and threw him into the pot and also pushed the wife into the pot. Then he also boiled the devil king in the pot and completely defeated them. He returned to his home town with his brother and they began a happy life with their parents.

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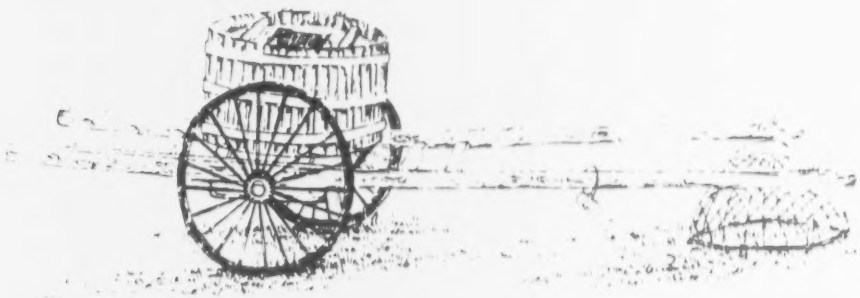

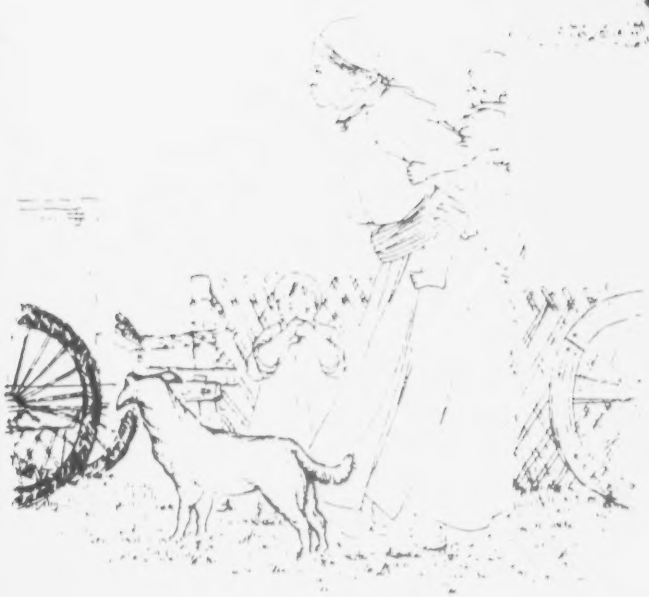

LONGING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

A man travelling on foot discovered two bustard eggs. He picked them up and continued his travels, thinking, "I'm going to take these two eggs to my home and will have my neighbor's hen hatch them and then I will have two bustards. The female one will also lay two eggs and those two eggs will become two bustards. In five years I'll have thirty-five bustards. And as more time goes by I'll have more and more bustards. Then I'll sell the old bustards as chicken meat, after salting them. I'll sell one salted bustard for five pieces of money and twenty bustards will be worth one hundred pieces of money. I will then be rich so I''ll marry a beautiful girl, buy a good horse and silk clothing and hire some workers. My life will be very good indeed."

He was so intoxicated with this bright future that he unwittingly stepped on a thin stream of dog shit, slipped, and fell, breaking the two bustard eggs.

* * *

THE OFFICIAL'S SON

An official invited a tutor to teach his foolish son. He told his son, "You must remember everything your tutor teaches or tells you." On the first day, the tutor said, "I am your teacher and you are my student." That night the official decided to examine his son and asked, "My dear son, what has your tutor taught you today?" The son stood before his father and said, imitating his tutor and shaking his finger at his father, "I am your teacher and you are my student." The official was enraged and slapped his son's face, saying,"Blasted Idiot! I am your father and you are my son."

The next day the tutor decided to examine his pupil about what he had taught him the precious day. The son thought that he was slapped by his father because he had repeated what the tutor had said, and decided to say what his father had said. So he said, shaking his finger at his tutor, "Blasted Idiot! You are my son." And then pointing his finger at himself continued, "And I am your father."

* * *

THE OFFICIALS'S SON AND THE SERVANT'S SON

One day an official's wife bore a son and the same day a servant's wife also gave birth to a son. The official named his son 'Head' and when the servant asked the official to name his son the official named the servant's son 'Buttocks'.

Later the official's son of died of illness. When the official held a funeral for his son, the servant came to him leading his own son, and said with tears streaming, "If our dear official's 'Head' were still living and in good health he would be the same age as my 'Buttocks'."

Everyone present at the funeral heard the servant's words and couldn't keep from laughing -- everyone that is except for the official.

TWO CATS

Balgansang's wife was very beautiful and well known to people living nearby. Neighbors included a chief lama and a governor of the banner. The chief lama and the governor both had similar desires for Balgansang's wife and often came to pester her.

The wife told this to her husband and Balgansang came up with a plan which he explained to his wife. The next day he left his home, saying that he would go to a city. The chief lama, who on some pretext had gone to see Balgansang, expressed his lustful desires as soon as he learned that Balgansang had left for the city. The wife said, "Oh, now, Dear Lama Guai has become like a male cattle which isn't in the herd of oxen. Then, try your luck. We will meet beside my family's field of sorghum tonight. Please wait on the south edge of the field. I'll wait on the north edge and mew like a tomcat. When you hear me, mew like a pussy cat. If I don't mew again, it means my husband is back and it's Lama Guai's bad luck." The chief lama agreed and went to his home.

After a short time, the governor also came sneaking to the young and beautiful wife and made the same request. The wife said, "Oh, the respectful governor has become like a bull camel in heat. Please try your luck. Let's meet beside my family's sorghum field tonight. I will wait for you on the south edge of the field. Dear governor, please go to the north edge of the field and mew like a tom cat, then I will mew like a pussy cat in answer to you. If I don't mew again, it means my husband has returned home and you're out of luck." The governor agreed and returned to his home.

That night, there were black clouds covering the sky and it seemed about to rain, creating good conditions to go secretly to do something hidden from others. The chief lama left for the field and so did the governor. They both went to the field and then it began to rain and thunder. But both thought, "I am going to meet the beautiful wife, so even if it hails, I must go to have pleasure," and went at their fastest speed.

The chief lama went to the south edge of the sorghum field where the sorghum grew very tall and sat to wait, like a watch dog. At the same time, the governor went to the north edge of the field and crept forward to the south and mewed like a tom cat.

The chief lama, who was intently listening, heard the governor's mewing and thought it must be Balgansang's wife and crept north, imitating the sound of a pussycat in the high pitch he used to chant scriptures. Upon hearing the pussy's mewing the governor was delighted, thinking, "The beautiful wife who always made me excited is coming now to my bosom," and mewed twice again, and crept forward at his quickest. And hearing the mewing of the tom cat, the cief lama was also delighted, thinking, "It is time to hold tightly the beautiful wife to my breast -- the one who always enters my fond dreams," and also mewed twice again and

crept forward as fast as he possibly could.

The two men crawled toward each other in the field and when they arrived in the middle of the field, saw the other figure. Then they raced to each other, tightly embraced, and kissed. But they both found that a beard was pricking their face and were frightened and were about to ask, "Who? ....." when there was suddenly a flash of lightening and they both recognized the other. "Alas, why are you here?" "Alas, what brings you here?" At just that moment, Balgansang entered the field and shouted, "Who is here?" The two 'cats' escaped in different directions and Balgansang yelled, "Thieves are in my field!" and rode his horse after them, chasing the two cats, beating their heads with his whip.

* * *

SPECIAL FOOD AND A SPECIAL POT

The banner official wanted to find a way to kill Balgansang because Balgansang had defeated him several times. So he decided to bring some false charges against Balgansang and have him killed. One day the official called Balgansang to come to his place and ordered, "I'm sure you are very clever and capable, therefore I want to entrust an important task to you." Balgansang said, "I must complete the task as best I can out of respect for you!"

The official said very seriously, "The Living Buddha of Maidan Temple comes here tomorrow. I have heard that he usually eats special food." Balgansang puzzled to himself, "What dirty trick is he up to now?" and asked, "What food will we offer the Living Buddha?" The official answered, "The food which the Living Buddha eats can't be salted, sweet, fatty, watery, hot, or sour and it can't be cooked by roasting, steaming, baking, frying, or boiling. And also it shouldn't be warm, cold, thick, or thin. The food must also have no smell and no taste. The Living Buddha likes to eat such food. So, if you don't cook the food according to these standards, I will have your head, because you will have played a practical joke on the Living Buddha."

Having listened to the official's words, Balgansang said, "Oh, it is very special food." The official replied, "Yes,. it is because the Living Buddha is very different from ordinary people." Balgansang said, "You know, no matter how wise a man is, he can't do efficient work without the appropriate instruments. So I think, my Dear Official, that you will give me a special pot in which I will prepare this special food." The official thought to himself, "I can offer any pot to you, but you can't prepare such food as I've described and then I will ...," and said, "Okay, I can prepare any pot for you -- a big pot, a small pot, pan, steamer, cauldron ..... all are okay!"

Balgansang shook his head and said, "No, Dear Official, there must be a special pot for cooking special food." The official then asked, "Well, which pot do you want?" "I want a pot made of gold, silver, copper, brass, iron, zinc, and ceramic. In other words, it can't be made of any particular metal, but must consist of every metal. And it must not be made of any one soil but must be made of every soil. If you can provide such a special pot, I will cook the special food for you," said Balgansang.

Hearing this, the official could only mumble, "Oh, oh ...," and was as dumb as a fish.

* * *

EXCHANGING GARMENTS

Balgansang went to a rich man's home in winter, dressed in a tattered unlined garment. The rich man wondered, "Why are wearing an unlined garment in such cold weather?" Balgansang answered, "My garment is nice and cool in summer, and nice and warm in winter." The rich man then put Balgansang in the mill room in order to see the garment's magic. When he returned to see Balgansang the next morning, he found Balgansang lying on the mill, sweating all over. Unbeknownst to the rich man, Balgansang had been running about the room, carrying the grindstone on his back. The rich man admired the garment and wished to exchange it for his own silk and lamb skin garment. Balgansang said, "Everyone who wears my garment can travel to Paradise, Hell, and all over the world. So, if you want my garment, you must give me your fast horse as compensation."

Then the rich man exchanged his garment with Balgansang and also gave him his fast horse, as Balgansang had demanded. Then he sat in the mill room in order to understand the magic of the garment and allowed Balgansang to lock the door. Then Balgansang rode the fast horse away, dressed in the silk garment. The next day, the rich man's son opened the door of the mill room and found his father was lying, smiling. The son thought the father was smiling in delight from some sweet dream and wished to awaken him. But his father had died from the cold.

* * *

SISTER-IN-LAW AND YOUNGER BROTHER

A sister-in-law of one family disliked her husband's younger brother and often showed contempt for him. One day Younger Brother discovered a swallow with a fractured leg and out of sympathy, bound the leg with red thread. The next year, the swallow returned to the family and when it sang to announce the coming of spring, deposited many jewels on Younger Brother's chest.

The sister-in-law later inquired, "How were you able to get so many jewels?" Because he was honest, Younger Brother told all that had happend. The woman also desired to acquire many jewels, grasped a healthy sparrow, fractured its leg, and then bound the leg with a red thread.

The following year, the swallow brought a venomous snake to the family and dropped it on the woman's head. The woman died from the snake's bite. The younger brother then lived a happy life.

* * *

THE WISE BLIND MAN

A blind man knew the outside and inside of his house so well with the help of his walking stick, that he had no need of others' help when he went out or entered his home. Because of his abilities, people called him the 'Wise Blind Man'."

Though his eyes were sightless, his ears were very keen and he heard others call him the "Wise Blind Man' and thus boasted, "I am a blind man. If I was not I would ....." and then would talk as though he actually could see. One winter morning, the blind man stood beside the window to bath in the sun when he heard some children playing outside and muttered to himself, "These children should stay in a warm room."

One child then said, "There is a snake here." The blind man heard this and said in the direction of the children, "I have heard the sound of a slithering snake, and have been waiting to tell you about if, but I didn't hear you coming." The child laughed and said, "It is only a dead snake." The blind man replied, "Yes, yes, I smelled something foul, so I stopped up my nostrils and waited for you to throw it away into the distance." The child then said, "It is a rope." The blind man then said, "Of course. I put the rope there and wished to frighten you."

The children then approached the blind man and one of them said, "A lama doctor is coming." The blind man heard this and leaned against his walking stick, "Yes, I know, I can smell the odor of medicine." All the children laughed and said, "Dear Sir, we lied just now." The blind amn replied, "I know. I know that the lama doctor is coming this afternoon. So why would he come this morning!"

THE GOLDEN RING

An old woman placed a ring on the fourth finger of her hand. Later, her thumb, forefinger, middle finger, and little finger held a meeting and decided that their owner had not put them in an important position and only thought the fourth finger was worth by giving him a golden ring and not giving them even a copper one. They then declared that the eight of them would do no more work for their owner.

After less than ten days had elapsed, the old woman felt very giddy and felt as though she could not move. She then addressed her finger, "My Dear Fingers, if I die, you must also die with me, so please don't envy others' happiness and shirk your own work and responsibilities." Then she died and the fingers also died with her.

* * *

ON THE ROAD TO LHASA

A mendicant monk travelled to Lhasa and one day, as night was about to fall he became thirsty and hungry and hoped to meet a family. At that moment he espied a yurt in the distance, was delighted, and hurried in that direction. Someone came out of the yurt, greeted him, and restrained their dogs. Then they received him. While the lama drank tea, the family members said to each other, "It is interesting to hear stories from others. How good listening to stories is!" The family inquired if he knew some good stories and waited.

After a moment the host said to the lama, "You travel everywhere and see and hear many interesting things. I'm sure you know many stories." Upon hearing this the lama was as pleased as though an itch bite had been scratched but assumed a modest countenance and said, "I know less than one story and not more than that."

The host was pleased with these words, thinking that the lama's personality was characterized by modesty. The host then said, "I think that your few stories are enough for us here." The lama nodded, expressing his agreement.

The lama finished drinking his tea and the host then said to his wife, "Please prepare a good meal for the lama. Let's eat our supper and go to bed early to hear some good stories." The wife busied herself and quickly prepared a meal. Everyone, including the lama, ate a good supper and relaxed. The host then told his wife, "Please prepare some bedding for the story-telling lama," and the wife did so. The lama, who was very full, stood up with some difficulty and went out of the yurt. He urinated near the yurt door, reentered the yurt, and went to bed.

The family members also retired and waited for the story from the heavy-breathing lama. But the lama lay very quietly and did not begin to tell any story. The worried host broke the silence and asked, "Would you begin your story now?" The lama who was about to go to sleep said, "Okay," and then continued his silence. When the host asked again, the lama said, "Yes, let's begin now." Everyone was very pleased and remained very quiet. Then the lama at last began, "While I journeyed to Lhasa, I saw a suslik standing on its rear legs near the hole," and then he resumed his silence. After a long pause the host became angry, "Hey, Lama Guai, what did the suslik do next?" The lama also became angry and said, "Of course! It then entered its hole!"

While the family felt distressed and worried, the lama slept, giving out thunderous snores. The host regretted that he had been deceived by the lama and thought that the lama knew no stories and that he would deal with him the next day. In the morning, while the family prepared breakfast, the lama got up with great exaggeration. The host saw this and became angry, "What are you thinking of now?" he asked. The lama said with a smile, "I am thinking that I will drink milk tea."

THE 'DEAF' LAMA

A lama travelled a long way to reach Lhasa and was very tired, hungry and thirsty. He came upon a yurt and entered. There he found a young woman standing and stoking the fire. And just as he entered the yurt, the woman suddenly farted. The woman, suddenly aware that someone was entering the yurt, felt very embarrassed because she thought that the lama had heard her fart. So she quickly closed the door, forcing the lama to stand outside.

The lama pleaded, "Please open the door. I am a pitiful lama, deaf, thirsty, and hungry." But he received no answer, The lama then thought of a plan to deal with the situation and said, "I beg you, please have smpathy on me and do some meritorious work. I don't know what you are saying because I can't hear anything. Please only give me some tea and some food." The woman hearing this, she thought, "If he is deaf, he didn't hear me fart."

When the lama began his entreaty again, the woman was assured and opened the door. Then she gave him tea and food. After the meal, the lama felt very full. His tiredness had vanished. He desired to continue his travels and said to the woman, "I thank you very much for giving me much good food. Now you may do anything, no matter what it is -- farting or even worse ..., I don't care. Bye-Bye." Then he left the home and continued his journey.

* * *

THE ORPHAN

Long ago there was an orphan who had five yellow goats and lived by herding them. One day, he sat on a hill letting his goats graze, gazing off into the distance. He very much missed his parents and longed for their love. Then a whitehaired old man with a curved walking stick came up to him. The old man said, "Dear Son, would you like to drive your goats to where I live? I, your father, will point the way." The orphan was surprised and said, feeling puzzled and rubbing his eyes, "I don't know where you live." The old man stroked his beard and said, "Please leave the goats on the steppe and close your eyes. Let me carry you on my back!" The orphan consented to this and was carried by the old man, flying through the sky, away to a far place.

When the old man said, "Please open your eyes," the orphan saw many jewels and animals covering the grassland. The old man received the orphan very warmly and loved him as his son. Then he took a curved walking stick, faced him smiling, turned to face another direction, sobbed, and then said, "My Dear, I wish you to take the walking stick to your home, dig a deep hole in the northeast corner of your home, and then bury the walking stick in the hole," and then the old man suddenly vanished.

The orphan then discovered he was lying on the hill alone and that his five goats were grazing as usual. He looked around and saw a curved walking stick a bit in front of him. He was delighted and drove the goats to his home and buried the walking stick just as the old man had instructed.

The next day, after the orphan had pastured his goats and returned in the evening, he found that someone had prepared a tasty supper for him in his home. The orphan was so excited that he shed tears, because he had never enjoyed such warmth. The next morning, he found that a beautiful girl was cooking breakfast for him and he asked her, "Hey, where are you from and why are you cooking for me? Did you cook that tasty supper for me last evening?" The girl burst into laughter and said, "I'm your wife." Then the orphan married her and they lived together. His five yellow goats increased in number till they covered the grassland. Milk products were so plentiful that they filled several buildings. The couple lived very happily.

A greedy and brutal king heard about the orphan living contentedly with his beautiful wife and ordered his officials, "You tell the orphan that he must send his wife to my palace. If he doesn't want to do so, he must erect two golden columns beyond my palace! If he does neither of these two things, I will send him to see the King of Hell!" The orphan heard this and said to his wife, "Maybe it is time for us to die. How can we disobey the king's order?" and began to sob, thinking about the miserable fate that lay before them. But the wife said, "My dear, don't be afraid, please give me the walking stick." Then, taking the stick, she faced east and sobbed, faced west and laughed.She did this thee times. Then she said, "Please raise

two golden columns beyong the king's palace," and blow on the walking stick. Two golden columns suddenly appeared beyond the king's palace, flashing bright yellow in the light. The king saw the columns and was worried. He gathered his weapons and ordered his army to make war upon the orphan in order to seize the beautiful wife. The king then took leave of his own wife and, leading his army, set out, beating a drum.

The orphan understood the king's intention and opened a box which his father-in-law had given him. Several units of ten thousand soldiers came out from the case and fought with the army of the king. The orphan's army killed all the other soldiers and gained the victory. Then the orphan and his beautiful wife lived happily.

* * *

SEVEN BROTHERS

Long ago, there were seven brothers that lived as separate families. Their names were Argat, Zayaat, Hychyt, Jirantai, Dalantai, Nayantai and Yerentai. One day, when the youngest, Yerentai, went to a well to water his sheep and goats, he discovered a mushroom, saying, "Why are you growing here?" and then watered his animals. The mushroom then became a black mangus (monster) with twelve heads, opened its mouth and said, "Yerentai Guai, I am very hungry and want to eat your flesh." Then he rushed at Yerentai, but Yerentai dodged the attack and said, "Please eat my flesh if you like, but only Brother Nayantai's sharp knife can cut my flesh, which is very old and tough, just like rawhide. Please go borrow the knife from him."

The Mangus asked with a dignified and awe-inspiring look, "Where is your brother, Nayantai? Be quick! tell me!" Yerentai answered, "He is not far. It will take only one month for you to reach him." The mangus headed westwards and travelled for one month and did find Nayantai. Nayantai saw from the appearance of the mangus that he had no good intentions and asked, "Mangus Guai, why do you come here?" The mangus replied, "I want to eat your brother, Yerentai, but I can't because I don't have your sharp knife. Please lend me your knife." Nayantai decided on a plan to deal with the mangus and said, "I can lend my knife to you, but I'm sorry that it is so dull. If you will sharpen the knife, you will need my brother's, Dalantai's, black grindstone, please go quickly and borrow the grindstone from him!" Mangus asked, "Where is your brother, Dalantai?" Nayantai answered, "It is not far. If you will go west for a month, you will find him."

The mangus headed west for one month, asking about the place along the road. Dalantai saw him coming and thought, "You villain! You always bring calamities to people. Why do you come here?" But he hid his anger and greeted him, "Mangus Guai, why are you in such a hurry? Please come to my home and eat something." Mangus said, "I want to eat your brother, Yerentai. But he said only his brother's, Nayantai's, knife can cut well. Now, Nayantai's knife is blunt and he needs your black grindstone. So please lend your grindstone to me, dear Dalantai Guai." Dalantai replied, "But if you want to take my grindstone, you need my brother's, Jirantai's oxcart. Only the ox cart can draw the grindstone. So please go to borrow his cart." "Where is he?" asked Mangus. "If you will go west for a month, you will find him, answered Dalantai.

The black mangus went west for another month and found Jirantai. He listened to why the Mangus had come and then said, "I can lend my cart to you, but it needs to be drawn by my brother's, Hychyt's, bull. Please go to him and borrow his bull."
"Where is your brother, Hychyt?"
"If you travel west for a month, you'll find him."

The mangus again went west for a month and found Hychyt. He listened to why the mangus had come and thought to himself,

"It's time to settle with you!" But he said with a smile, "Okay, but the bull is on the steppe now. If you want to catch him, you need to ride my brother's, Zayaat's, fast horse. Please go borrow Zayaat's horse."

"Where does he live?"

"If you go west for a month, you will find him."

The mangus went west for a month and found Zayaat. Mangus told Zayaat what he wanted. After he heard the mangus' story Zayaat thought, "It is time to finish your life, but said, "Okay, but the horse is on the steppe now, Only my brother, Argat, has the ability to catch it. Please go and ask my brother, Argat, to come here."

"Where is Argat?"

"Go west for a month and you will find him."

Mangus went west for a month and found Argat. Mangus told him all that had happened and the reason for his visit. Argat thought, "I want to send you to hell!" but he pretended to be worried, clapping his knees, and saying, "Alas, my ability has fallen into the river today."

"What shall we do now!"

"Nevermind, we can dredge it up from the river, riding a stick which is a fathom long." Then Argat led Mangus to the river and said, pointing at the reflection of his body, "Please look at it, that is my ability. Mangus, who was very hungry after six months, looked at it and said, "Let me enter the water." Then he squeezed a stick between his legs and plunged into the river where he was tumbled by the river and lost his life.

* * *

THE "HOLY WATER OF ETERNITY"

Long ago, there was a brutal prince, whose age was about seventy years. He was afraid that he would, after death, never again be able to enjoy the pleasures of this world and wished for immortality. With this in mind he ordered his officials to find an eternal ginseng, which, if anyone ate of it, would give him eternal life. He declared, "He who returns without finding the ginseng will be killed."

Because no one could find the ginseng, the officials and servants appointed to look for it were all executed. News of this spread and Balgansang heard about it. He thought of a good way to punish the prince and revenge his victims. So one cold winter morning Balgansang ran at his fastest to the prince's palace, dressed in an unlined garment and carrying a bucket of water. He came to the gate of the prince's palace, sweating, and poured the water into a crack in the frozen earth and shouted, "Dear Prince! Dear Prince! Please come quickly." Then Balgansang knelt near the crack and began to drink the water.

The prince emerged from his palace, dressed in fox-skin garments and asked, "Hey, what are you doing here in such cold weather?" "Dear Prince, you have very good luck," Balgansang said, pointing to the water and continued, "God has blessed you with the water of eternity. Please look at this. The earth has burst with the water of eternity in so cold weather!" Then he continued to gulp the water. The prince saw that Balgansang was sweating and vapor was rising from his body, Though he was dressed in only an unlined garment. The prince was filled with wonder and asked, "Why are you drinking the water so intently?" Balgansang answered, "Don't you know? It is the water of eternity you have found. He who drinks the cold water, will become younger and will never die." Then he rubbed away his sweat and drank again.

Having heard that this water would grant immortality and youthfulness, the prince was delighted that he had thought to ask the usefulness of the water and said hurriedly, "Okay, please go away! Now let me drink," and shoved Balgansang aside, knelt, waiting to drink the water. Then Balgansang stopped him and said, "Dear Prince, this water has heat, so you cant't drink it dressed in your garments. I'm wearing an unlined garment and am sweating so much. If you drink it, wearing your fox-skin garment, you will get a fever and probably die."

The prince then took off his fox-skin garments and boots and began to drink the water. After swallowing two mouthfuls, he asked, "Why it the water so cold?" Balgansang answered, "You feel it is cold when you begin to drink, but later, it becomes hot and you will sweat all over. Also, when you drink, don't take your mouth from the surface of the water and in this way the effect of the water will be stronger."

The prince knelt again and kept his mouth to the water surface,

according to Balgansang's suggestions and sipped and swallowed the water in the crack. After a moment, his body became blue and he began to shiver with cold and his arms and legs grew numb. Then his head became stuck fast to the ice and he wasn't able to raise his head from the ice.

Then Balgansang put on the prince's fox-skin garment and said, "Respectful Prince, I wish you to live eternally after you drink the water. Excuse me, but I must be going now," and went to his home.

The prince, who had dreamed of being immortal, went to the King of Hell, lying on the ice.

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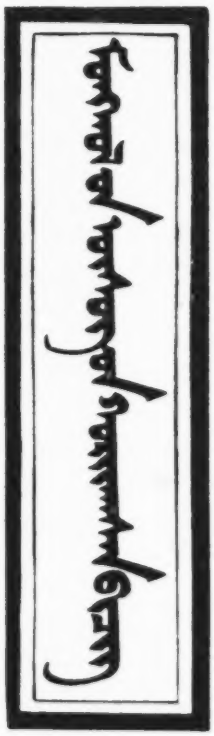

HUNTING GOATS

One day Balgansang had hunted and killed two antelopes and was riding back to his home when he met a greedy official. The official saw the two antelopes and grew dark in the face, saying, "These are my goats. Why did you shoot my four-legged goats? Please put them down at once!"

Balgansang understood the official's greedy aim and said, "Oh, I didn't know your goats were of such a form," and gave the two antelopes to the official and went on his way. The greedy official was delighted for his gains which he had got by threatening, and went in the direction of his home, taking the two antelopes.

Then, as the official was going near to his home, he heard a gun thunder two times from behind a hill. The greedy official thought Balgansang must have shot more antelopes and went to where the sound had come from. He could see that Balgansang had killed two animals and was carrying them on his horse. The official rode up to Balgansang in order to grab his game again and found Balgansang had shot two big castrated goats that belonged to him.

The official flew into a rage and shouted, "Why did you kill my goats?" Balgansang answered, carrying the goats on his horse's back, "Dear Official, please don't willfully make trouble! Can't you tell the difference between goats and antelopes? Aren't you carrying goats on your horse? These two animals which I have just killed are white antelopes! Don't you know that?" The official was rendered speechless.

* * *

THE TALL-TALE CONTEST

Although a prince had never knuckled under to others, he was defeated by Balgansang time and time again and decided to start a feud with him. One day he felt he had come up with a good way to defeat Balgansang and said to Balgansang, "Let's compete in bragging." The first one of us to say, "It's a lie' to the other's words will be the loser und will give one hundred sheep to the winner. What do you think?"

Even though Balgansang had not even one lamb he agreed to the idea and said, "Okay, let's do it." Then the prince began to tell his tale, "Last night, a wind blew here so powerfully that the trees were all up-rootes and boulders collapsed. The wind blew almost one hundred of my sheep out of my sheepfold as it passed by here, swirling them away and landing them in your sheepfold." Then he thought, stroking his beard, "I must have defeated Balgansang. If he says, "Yes, it is true, he will have to give me one hundres sheep -- the sheep that I said belonged to me. And if he says, 'No, it's a lie,' he will also have to give me one hundred sheep. In any event, he will have to give me one hundred sheep." And then he asked Balgansang, "What do you think? Is what I have said true or false?"

Balgansang replied, "Yes, what you have said is very true." Then the prince demanded, "If so, you should return my one hundred sheep!" Balgansang then said, "Dear Prince, you are in too much of a hurry, please hear me." Then Balgansang began his tale, "The wind was indeed strong last night. It blew down the pole to which the horses were tethered, rushed down the slopes, and brought almost one hundred sheep to my sheepfold ....." The prince cut in, "Yes, they were my sheep which had been blown away." Balgansang paid no attention to him and continued, "Then I lay down to wait for the wind to stop, afraid, when the wind direction suddenly changed one hundred and eighty degrees. This time the wind blew even stronger than before and swirled away the sheep which the wind had brought, together with my one hundred sheep."

The prince was surprised and shouted, "Oh!" and was about to say, "It's a lie," but managed to restrain himself. Balgansang went on, "This tornado blew the two hundred sheep up in the sky and at last put them in your sheepfold. And strangely enough, the wind suddenly stopped blowing!" The prince couldn't bear any more and jumped to his feet, "What you have said is a lie. How then driving the prince's two hundred sheep returned to his home.

* * *

DRAWING THE KHAN'S PORTRAIT

Long ago there lived a cruel khan who was blind in one eye and lame in one leg. The populace described him as being a greedy fox. But the khan considered himself to be the leader of all the people in the world and always dreamed of leaving a portrait of himself after his death in order that others --future generations-- would know what he looked like.

Then one day the khan issued a proclamation. All the artists were to gather and draw his portrait. Thus all the famous painters assembled in the capital within a half-month and began to draw the khan's portrait. One painter drew a very realistic portrait of the khan and offered it to the khan. The khan was angry and said, "You are insulting me'. Aren't you afraid of death?" And the painter was killed as an example to the other painters.

A second artist drew the khan as a handsome young man because he thought a realistic portrait would only earn him death. Thus the khan's blind eye was as beautiful as a rainbow and his lame leg was healthy and robust. Then the painter presented his likeness to the khan. But the khan wasn't delighted, "You are flattering me! I must kill such people as an example to others." A third painter wondered if he should draw a realistic or idealized portrait and then he thought of a way to deal with the cruel khan. He reported to the khan the next day, "I think that if I paint you in a usual position, it's not very good, so I want to paint you hunting with a bow. This posture will express your great glory." The khan was delighted with this idea and agreed. The painter then painted the khan fitting an arrow on a bowstring, closing his blind eye, and bending his lame leg above he stirrup. The khan saw the portrait and praised the painter, "You are a loyal slave of your khan," and let him return home.

COMBING HAIR

An old man had a nearly-bald head that looked like an upended copper container but this didn't stop him from dressing up. He had only three hairs on his head. One day the old man called to his daughter and asked her to comb his hair. The daughter finished and asked, "What should I do now?" "Please braid them," the father replied. The daughter tried to braid her father's three hairs but in the process, one hair fell out.

"Oh, sorry, I have caused one of your hairs to fall out!"

"Then please twine the two remaining."

The daughter tried to twine her father's two remaining hairs but in the process another hair fell out. The daughter reported this to her father.

With some dignity her father said, "Well, please comy my hair straight back! If it gets tousled, then just let it get tousled. It's not important to an old man like me!"

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THE PROUD STORY TELLER

A story teller only knew a few stories. He thought that his several stories were the only ones worth anything and had no interest in learning any others. One day he prepared to tell some stories and many people gathered about to listen. With a great show the story teller began one of his stories, accompanying himself on the horse-head fiddle, "A long time ago, there was something ....." His audience at once understood that he was preparing to tell an old story that they had heard many times before so everyone left for their homes with various excuses: "I was only going to stay outside for a few minutes." "I must go relieve myself." Finally, only one boy remained.

The story teller was intoxicated with his story telling, and had closed his eyes. At last he finished his story and opened his eyes, and said, "Oh, dear boy, how fond you are of hearing stories. How did you like the story?" and reached out to pat the boy. But the boy said, rubbing his eyes and yawning, "I didn't stay here to hear your story, I have been waiting to take my paper pad from under your seat!" The story teller had no words with which to reply.

* * *

THREE FOOLISH SONS

A cruel rich man had three sons who all ran about wildly. The rich father was seventy years old and began to think of his three sons' welfare after his death. One day he said to his sons, "I wish you wouldn't play all day. You all should learn some skill in life before I die. Please take these three pieces of money and learn a vocation within a half-month," and gave three pieces of money to each son.

The sons left home and searched for some vocation. They went three different ways to find a skill with which to support themselves. They decided, before parting, that they would meet at an agreed upon time and place in the nature. The eldest son went northwest, the second went southeast, and the youngest went southwest. The eldest son came to a village and stopped because he wanted to eat something. He then saw that many children were gathered looking at something. He went to have a look and saw a person tinkering with a pan. The eldest son thought this would be a suitable vocation for him and decided to learn it. Then he asked the tinker to teach him this skill and gave him his three pieces of money.

The second son went to some beautiful mountains where there were some lakes and missing his parents, began to sob. Then he determined that he must learn a vocation and would return at an early date to his parents. Continuing on he met a group of people in a funeral party, hypocritically weeping. The second son called to a person among the group and said, "Would you like to teach me how to cry in such hypocrisy? I will give you three pieces of money." Although the person was angry at first, when he heard the mention of money, he taught him how to cry hypocritically.

The youngest son went on alone and met a hunter and learned how to shoot and gave his three pieces of money to the hunter.

The three met, as planned, and returned home, discussing the skills they had learned. The rich man was very glad to see his sons again and held a banquet to welcome them. They talked about their skills and drank. The rich man drank very much, because of his joy and slept. Several flies were buzzing over the rich man's head and the youngest son, seeing the flies, was enraged, "Those damned flies want to fly about and sit on our father's head," and then he picked up his hunting rifle and shot at the flies. But the bullet hit his father's head causing his brain's to flow out.

They were all very worried then. "Nevermind, I can tinker my father's head and make it well again," said the eldest son. Then he took his hammer and some nails and repaired his father's head. But his effort was in vain. Then the second son said, "I have an idea as to how and solve the problem," and led the others to cry hypocritically.

TWO SONS

An old man had two sons and lived with his elder son. The younger son lived with his wife and was foolish. One day one of the elder son's oxen died and the fool's wife learned about it. She advised her husband to visit his brother and, "You should say to your brother 'Dear Brother, please don't feel unhappy. Only an animal which eats grass had died and nothing else. You soon will get another one." The fool went to his brother's home and repeated these words to his brother. His elder brother was very heartened to hear his brother's considerate words. When the fool went home his elder brother sent him half of the beef of the dead ox.

Later, the old man, who had lived with his elder son, died of illness and it came time for the fool to visit his brother. When the wife started to tell her husband what to say to his brother the fool, replied, "Don't tell me what to say. I know what to say," and went away. The fool came to his brother's home and saw that he was weeping and then he said, "Dear Brother, please don't feel unhappy. Only an animal which eats grass has died and nothing else. You can get another one in the future." The older brother was very angry to hear this and drove the fool out of his home. And the foolish younger brother went toward his home muttering, "It is unreasonable for you to drive me away, having not given me half of our father's body!"

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THE UNYIELDING NOVICE

A lama went on pilgrimage, leading his novice and riding an old camel. The lama gave a little food to the novice every day and had the novice carry something on his back. But the novice was an unyielding one and never lost his sense of selfrespect. One day, whey they both were resting in a family's home, the lama ate a cake and dropped part of it on the ground. The novice picked it up and ate it, because he was very hungry. After leaving the family, the lama cursed the novice, "You have eaten cake which fell on the ground and caused me to lose face. If you pick up something again which has fallen on the ground, I will give you this cake!" and showed the palm of his hand to the novice, indicating that he would slap his face.

As they continued their travel, the lama's dried mutton fell from the camel's back. Although the novice saw it, he didn't pick it up. At night, when they prepared to cook, the lama discovered his dry mutton was gone. He then asked the novice, "Did you steal and eat my dry mutton?" The novice answered, "It fell from the camel's back today. I wanted to pick it up but I remembered what you told me -- not to pic up anything that had fallen on the ground. So I didn't pick it up." The lama could think of no response, although he was very angry, and ordered, "You must pick up everything that falls from the camel in the future. If you don't do this, I will beat you!"

The next day, the lama rode his camel and let the novice go on foot, carrying the lama's food on his back. The novice dropped far behind the lama because of his heavy burden and arrived at the inn where the lama had been waiting for him a long time. The lama was angry and wanted to hit him, saying, "You were so slow in coming, under the pretense of a small burden." The novice said, "No, I am late because of another reason. Many things fall from the camel today and I picked them all up bacause I remembered what you had ordered me to do and I was afraid of being beaten." The lama wondered what had fallen from the camel that day and was eager to know, saying, "Quickly, show me!" in a loud voice. The novice said, "Because I had only this bag, I put those things into the skin sack containing your food," and then opened the skin sack. The lama saw that camel dung and his food were mixed in the skin sack. Although he was very angry he couldn't say anything, remembering what he had said the previous day.

THE CLOCK BIRD

Long ago, some Mongolian caravan leaders went to China and were awakened every morning by the singing of a bird. It always annouced dawn's arrival and time to get up. During their stay in China, the caravan leaders always awoke and got up according to the bird's song. Then as they left China for Mongolia, they bought one of the birds to take with them.

When they came to a place to pass the night, the bird's owner told his fellows, "Please sleep this night with your hearts at ease. I will call you in the morning, because I have a 'clock bird' which will tell me the time to arise."

The next morning they woke late because the 'clock bird' had not 'told the time'. The bird's owner look at his 'clock bird' closely and reported, "Alas, its beak was flattened when we carried it on the camel yesterday, thus it can't tell time for us."

But the 'clock bird' was a duck and a Chinese had hoodwinked the Mongolian.

* * *

DIVIDING THE SILVER

A tall man and a short man hurried on their way together, chatting. The tall one speculated, "If we were to find five hundred liang of silver, how do you think we should divide it?" It should be divided in two equal parts, so each of us would get two hundred and fifty liang of silver," the short man determined. "No, I don't think that's fair because I saw it first so I ought to get three hundred liang," the tall man offered in disagreement. The short man shot back, "What you say isn't true. If I had been walking by myself I would have seen the silver by myself."

While they were bickering over their fantasy an official on horseback came up to them and asked, "Why are you quarreling?" The short man, struggling to be the first to answer said, "Together we discovered five hundred liang of silver. Now he is insisting that he wants three hundred liang. Sir, please tell us what you think is reasonable?" The tall man didn't yield his position and offered as evidence, "I found it first, therefore I ought to get three hundred liang."

Having heard the two men out, the official was very much pleased and demonstrated his power, saying, "Each of you ought to have two hundred liang of silver and the other one hundred liang should be mine," and stretched out his hand.

"Sir, we have yet to find the silver!~ they both chorused with one voice.

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THREE BROTHERS

Long ago, an old man lived with his three sons. One day he told his three sons, "When I die, cover me with felt, bind me with rope, then pull me with a rope. On the way, wherever the rope breaks, stop and dig a hole there three meters deep. You will find three cubes of gold. Each of you take one cube and you will live happily and wealthy all your lives. Not long after, the old man died. The two older brothers pretended that they knew nothing of their father's final words, so the youngest brother, who was very kind, covered his father's corpse with felt, tied the felt to the body with rope, and then he pulled the body with a rope. Many days went by. It was not until three months later that the rope bvroke and he began to dig in the place, as his father had directed. In the end he really did find three cubes of gold and brought them back to his brothers. But the elder brothers bought a horse to ride with the third cube of gold and did not give it to the youngest brother.

Some time later the elder two rothers loaded their small white yurt on the back of a horse and ran away as the youngest brother was out working. The youngest brother shouted at his two departing brothers, "Take me with you or else leave me one cube of gold." But the two elder brothers continued on their way, paying no heed.

Thus the youngest brother was left to wander about the grassland in his thin old clothes in hunger. One evening, as he passed by a poor family's camp, the owner invited him to stay at his home for one night. After supper, the owner took him to a dark room and instructed him to sleep there. Not long after he had gone to bed, he heard a woman yelling at the door and someone outside on horseback was saying, "It is time for me to take away my girl. Quickly let her come!"

The owner answered, "Come back tomorrow. We have a guest today, so we can not give her to you." Then everything grew silent and the man on horseback rode away.

The young brother was so frightened that he decided to escape, for he did not know where the voice came from as there was no other person in his room. To his surprise, a voice was coming from the lockk as he went near the door, saying, "The woman who is crying is the only daughter of this family. She is very naughty and the other day, when she went to the lake to bathe, a large spotted frog stole away her spirit. So I locked her here." The young brother felt very sorry and asked, "Can I do anything to help you? If I can, just tell me. I'm willing to help you to rid yourself of this misfortune." The lock thought for a moment and then said, "Then it is necessary for you to go to an old couples' home before dawn. Surely they will ask you where you have stayed the night. You tell them that, 'Someone is always yelling in the room where I stayed.' Then they will tell you that the person who yelled is their only daughter and will certainly ask you if you can do anything to help them. You

should tell them that it is easy to rescue their daughter if only they promise to gather all the people of the town and bring four carts of wood and one hundred pots of butter. Then put one cart of wood on each side of the lake and pour out butter to build a fire. When the water of the lake begins to boil, a large spotted frog will jump out of the water. If you can kill this frog, you can rescue their daughter."

So the next morning before dawn, the young brother got up early and went to the old couples' place and talked with them as he had been instructed the night before. The old couple gathered all the people of the town and did as the young brother directed. When the water began to boil, a large spotted frog jumped out from the bottom of the lake and was immediately killed. They were surprised to find that their daughter was staying at home as healthy as anyone, when they returned. The old couple was grateful to the young brother and gave permission for him to take away anything he liked from their home. The young brother asked to have the lock which could speak. The old couple agreed. The younger Brother left to continue his wandering.

One day, Younger Broger saw many people coming in his direction. followed by three fine black horses. The young brother asked his lock who they people were. The lock replied, "Just say nine thousand, nin hundred and ninety nine yuan." As soon as the people came near they asked, "How much are these horses altogether?" Younger Brother said the number as he had been told by the lock. To his surprise, the people showed great respect to him and asked him to go with them.

Later, they told Younger Brother that the person who could guess the value of the three horses would be the king of that banner and thus Younger Brother became King. He contacted his elder brothers and gave them many cattle and the two older brothers lived a happy life as well. But one day, the second brother ran to the king's palace and urged, "Come, Elder Brother has a serious illness. Come and see him!" The king hurried to go out a but unluckily his blothes took themselves off him and the king was nearly naked. Many time he tried to put on his blothes but without success. So he asked the second brother to go first and he would follow. Entering the room, he found that the second brother was dead and Elder Brother was weeping over his body.

Then Elder Brother told that he planned to kill the king for he wished to be king. He said he had sent Second Brother to call the king and he had hid behind the door and planned to kill the king by striking him on the head as he entered the room. But is was Second Brother who returned first. The king, who nearly fainted at what his brother had told him, took out his sword and killed Elder Brother, as the king was responsible for punishing those who killed others.

* * *

DEFEATING A MANGUS

Long ago, a lama went on a pilgrimage to Wu Tai Mountain and on the way passed through a broad flat land, and had to go without food and drink for three days and three nights. Continuing his travels, feeling hungry and thirsty, he came upon three rooms with a courtyard. He was very delighted at the prospect of meeting someone and the possibility of fortifying himself and went up to the gate of the courtyard, shouting, "Please open your gate!" and began knocking upon the gate. But nobody came to open the gate nor made any answer. While waiting for someone to come, he fell asleep.

Sometime later he awoke and walked over a hill and saw the outline of Wu Tai Mountain. The lama grew excited and thought, "If I hadn't slept. I would be able to arrive at Wu Tai Mountain earlier." He proceeded onwards and came to the main hall in the temple complex at the holy mountain and knelt down to pray before a copper god. The god suddenly opened his mouth and said, "I understand your sincere intention to come here. Please return as soon as you eat something. When you return to your temple, you will be welcomed as a Living Buddha by the lamas."

The lama was frightened and looked about and all the gods in the hall were gazing at him, smiling. Then the lama's feelings of reverence increased and he prayed all the more. Then one of the gods said, "Don't give him any favor for he has never abided by religious discipline and has been eager to engage in the lust of the flesh. The lama shouted, "I have never been guilty of such things!"

"If you are a genuinely good lama, then engage in black magic once you return to your temple (immediately)," said one of the gods. "How can I immediately return when coming here has been a long journey requiring several months?" "You should jump up abruptly while saying some magic words." The lama then jumped up suddenly and fell into a large jar. The gods then made fun of him, laughing and said, "He is not a good lama."

Suddenly the lama awoke and found that he had only dreamed. He was in a heavy sweat and wished to rise when he heard a very strange voice laughing at him. He saw a fifteenfoot mangus, with one eye in the middle of his forehead and hair all over his body, approaching, carrying a fat man in his arms. The lama tried to escape from the mangus but was caught. The mangus felt the lama's lower jaw to see how fat he was and said, laughing, "Although your are rather thin, I am glad to eat a meal sent to me freely. I have met with good luck today. Ga-ga, ga-ga." Then the mangus pushed a stone as big as an ox away from the door, opened it, and entered, carrying the lama and the other man. They were both put in a room with another ten people.

During this time, the lama prayed and sobbed. The mangus drove one person out into the courtyard and lit a bonfire, and then heated a skewer until it was red hot. The lama saw a sharp knife

had been placed on a big flat board and was so frightened that he nearly lost consciousness. Then the mangus untied the fat man, took off his clothes, put him on the board, tied his four limbs together, took the red hot skewer and thrust the skewer through the man's body. The fat man cried out but once, then died. After a moment, blood flowed from the man's mouth and nose as the mangus repeatedly jabbed the skewer in and out of his body, up through his anus. The body then was roasted.

Afterwards, the mangus took his big knife and devoured the man's flesh. After putting some more wood on the fire, he lay down and began to sleep, snoring loudly.

The lama thought that it was time for his death and came up with a plan. Then he said to a person beside him, "Please untie my bindings and let's deal with this mangus together. First we should untie each other and then go out into the courtyard." Then his neighbor untied his bindings with his teeth, and the lama untied the others. Everyone then went out into the courtyard and began to discuss how to deal with the mangus.

A Child said, "Let's run away." An old man said, "We shouldn't do that because we were caught before when we tried to run away from him. The mangus can run very fast and his sense of smell for us is very keen. So let's unite our power as one and fight."

A younger man suggested, "We can kill him with his knife." A woman spoke up, "We can stab him in the chest with the red hot skewer." The lama added, "It is not useful to stab his chest. When he grasped me, I felt armour about him." The old man then said, "I think we should stab his eye with the red hot skewer. If we can't kill him all at once, we can ....," and the others all agreed.

Some old and sick men and children went away from the courtyard and the younger people and adults picked up some stones and pieces of wood. The lama went into the courtyard and pulled out the red hot skewer from the fire. When he took it near the mangus' eye, he saw that the mangus was sleeping with his eye open and the lama was very frightened. He was so frightened that he couldn't move away so he raised the borer and thrust it into the mangus' eye. The mangus cried out loudly and jumped up. The lama couldn't hold on to the skewer and was thrown four fathoms.

As the mangus rose, the skewer fell down outside the courtyard. The blind mangus felt around him, pushed down the rooms and grasped the bigest beam as a club and broke down the walls of the courtyard.

The lama took the mangus' knife and stabbed the mangus in the back. The mangus cried all the more loudly and became more frenzied. Then the other people threw their stones and pieces of wood and beat him from every side. One of the mangus' hands was broken and then his two legs were broken. The mangus fell and his head was fractured. Then they burned the mangus' dead body.

After defeating the mangus, the lama took leave of the others and continued his journey. The other people returned to their homes and resumed their happy lives.

THE MAN WHO SPOILED EVERYTHING

A long long time ago, there was an old couple with seven cows. The old wife was a diligent woman and often did such housework as cooking, firewood collecting, and so on. On the other hand, her old husband was a lazy crude man who always stayed at home.

One day, when the old wife had finished her work and returned home in the evening, she found that her husband was cooking a pot full of meat. She asked him, "What kind of meat are you cooking?" "Excuse me. I killed one of the cows because someone said that the number seven is not a good number but the number six is better." The husband said this smiling. The next day when the wife returned home she saw he had killed one more cow. "What are you doing? Have you gone mad?!" she said to her husband. He responded, "I heard that having six cows is not good but having five is good." After that he killed the cows one by one giving the reasons, "Five is not good, four is good. Four is not good, three is good." Seven days passed and he had killed all of their cows.

The old wife was very angry, because her husband had killed all the cows which supported their lives. She took four feet and some internal organs and went far from her home. One day she came to a big cliff and shouted, "Cliff! Cliff! Would you like some cow stomach?" Then she threw the stomach to the cliff where it stuck. Then she cried to the sky, "Sky! Sky! Would you like some meat?" Strangely, the meat in her hand flew up to the sky. She stayed at the cliff and when she was thirsty and hungry, she shouted to the cliff, "Cliff! Cliff! Give me some milk." The cliff gave her the milk immediately. When she cried to the sky, "Sky! Sky! Give me some meat!" the sky gave her some meat. She drank the milk, ate the meat and rested there some days. She thought that her old husband would die if he was not given some food. So she returned home and gave some milk and meat to her old husband. Then she told him her experience with the cliff and sky. "I want to go to the cliff with you," the old husband said. His wife replied, "It is better that you don't go there. I shall bring meat for you." But the old husband insisted on going so they went to the cliff. When they arrived, the old husband took up the stomach sticking to the cliff. As a result, the cliff stopped giving them milk and the sky stopped giving meat.

Although the old wife was angry with her husband, who not only could not provide a good life but often destroyed the good life, she still returned home with him. The next day, the old wife went to the cliff and stayed there for a long time. Finally the cliff gave some milk to her and the sky gave some meat. She took it back home. "I would like to go there once more," the old husband said. His wife said, "You can go there but you must not behave as you did before." The only woman warned him repeatedly. Then they went along a bushy road, suddenly the old husband farted, startling some Mongolian gazelles. At the moment when the gazelles were fleeing, the old woman snapped the tail off of one of the young fawns and the broken tail was left in her hand.

The fawn tail soon turned into a handsome man and he became her son. The old wife divorced her husband, who often only made everything worse, and went far away with her son. There, in the new place, with her fawntail son, she lived a happier life than ever before.

* * *

(Told by Omuda ,aged 84 years; Bulungur Production Team; Seric Tribe, Ulan County, Qinghai Province)

THE GUIDE'S EXAMPLE

Several Mongolian men wanted to go to a Chinese city but they knew none of the Chinese language and didn't know any Chinese customs. So they invited a guide who knew Chinese, asked him to teach them some of the Chinese language, and introduce some aspects of Chinese culture to them.

The guide suggested, "After we arrive in the city, it's best if you take me with you everywhere and this way yoy will be safe." The Mongolians said, "Okay. That sounds good. We'll have you with us no matter where we go or what we do."

Later they arrived in the city and had a dinner on the second floor of a restaurant. When they finished they prepared to follow the guide down the stairs. Suddenly the guide stumbled and went rolling down the stairs. The Mongolians said, "Okay, it must be necessary to go down these stairs like this so we'll follow our guide's example." Then the Mongolians reached down, raised the hem of their tunics, stood in line, and one by one rolled down the stairs.

* * *

THE KNIFE

A poor herdsman lacked food and had to kill his beloved sheep.

When his wife approached him, just after he had killed the sheep, he gazed at the dead sheep and shouted, grasping his knife, "Alas, my good sheep, I didn't kill you. This knife killed you! Just this knife!" Then he threw away the knife saying, "I won't touch this bad knife!"

* * *

TAJU LIED AND WAS REWARDED WITH GOLD

Once upon a time there was a khan. Every year he gathered all the country's story/tellers, placed a large container of gold in front of them and said, "I'll give this gold to the person whose story makes me shout, 'That's a lie!' and I'll have the person beaten whose story makes me say, 'That can be so.'"

Many story-tellers gathered in the khan's palace and demonstrated their abilities, but nobody heard the khan's "That's a lie!", only, "That can be so," and all were beaten cruely.

One day, the khan put out the container of gold and called the story-tellers. But no one would say a word because they were afraid of a beating and the khan's anger. The following day was the same.

On the third day, the khan had the story-tellers gather and there again was silence. Then one youth named Taju came out from the crowd of story-tellers, went up to the khan and said, "I came here with my grandfather before my father was born. We had several swarms of bees and knew how many bees were in each." The khan interrupted him and said, "That can be so." Taju continued his story, "We were afraid of losing the bees, so we counted them everyday and one evening we found two were missing. My grandfather was angry with me and asked me to search for them. I looked for them a long time, but didn't find either of them. I was too tired to go on so I took off my boots and lay under a tree. Suddenly there came a loud noise, I looked around and saw my two boots wrestling with one another." The khan made him stop and said, "That can be so."

Taju continued his story," I separated the boots and put them on, then entered the forest. I found two wolves fighting with one of our missing bees, but the wolves escaped quickly when I arrived. In the struggle with the wolves, one of the bees legs had been broken. I replaced it with a piece of wood and sent the bee home to my grandfather." The khan made him stop and said, "That can be so." Taju continued his story after having a short rest, "I went on to look for the other bee, otherwise I knew my grandfather would beat me. I then encountered a herd of pigs and behind them was an old man in very filthy and poor clothing. He had dirty long hair and he looked terrible. As I went near him I realized that he was our old khan - your father!"

The khan jumped up and cried, "That's a lie!" The story-tellers and listeners made a loud voice and before the khan could think further, Taju had taken the container of gold and vanished.

* * *

PRETEXT

Two Mongolian men were travelling. They renewed their travels every morning and in the evening would camp in a tent. One evening, when they arrived at a suitable camping site, one of the men discovered that they had lost their iron tent stakes. This was serious because it meant they were unable to pitch their tent.

One man, turning to the other, commented, "We have lost our tent stakes." The other responded, "Yes, I know. They fell from the camel's pack this morning." Rather surprised, the first man asked, "Well, why didn't you pick them up?" To this the second said, "It was not possible because at that time, I was astride my camel." "Well then, why didn't you tell me about?" asked his companion in an exasperated tone of voice.

"Well, it wasn't possible. I was eating some cakes at the time," was the response which left the other man speechless.

* * *

OFFICIAL AND SERVANT

A long time ago, an official often boated and liked to exhibit his power at every opportunity. One day he decided to go to a city and chose a female servant to go with him in order to show off. They both rode on two fast horses and after some travel, arrived at the city's gate. Because of the narrowness of the gate and the fact that there were many people moving in and out, they were forced to pause for a moment. The servant then removed some dried beef from her upper dress and began to eat. While eating, she dropped one piece of the beef on the ground and started to pick it up. The official thought, "If she picks it up she will embarass me," and said with anger, "All flesh which falls on the ground is foul, don't pick it up!" The servant agreed and they continued on their way into the city.

When they were passing into the city, the official's horse was frightened by someone and as a result the official was pitched into the street where he shouted, "Servant, quickly help me get up." But the servant did not even so much as glance at him and went on, admiring the street scenery.

The official was livid that the servant should behave this way and scolded, "You blasted idiot! When I, your master, fell into the street, you didn't even look at me! Are you blind?" The servant replied, "Dear official, please don't be angry with me. You said that flesh which falls on the ground is foul and that I must not pick it up." The official was very angry but could say nothing.

* * *

LEAVING WITHOUT PICKING UP FOULED FLESH

One day a price went hunting with Balgansang. Balgansang took some meat before setting off because he had missed his breakfast.

On the way Balgansang became hungry and began to eat some meat. A rabbit suddenly appeared in front of them and the prince ordered him to capture it.

Balgansang's remaining meat dropped from his hand onto the ground because of his carelessness. He then dismounted to retrieve the meat, but the prince yelled in anger, "Bad anger! Flesh on the ground is dirty! Don't pick it up!"

After hearing the prince's command, Balgansang wordlessly mounted his horse and galloped after the rabbit. Balgansang killed the rabbit but then they met one wild boar, two sows, and several piglets.

The prince shouted, "Hurry! Catch those pigs for me!" Balgansang rode toward the pigs, but they ran in all directions. The boar ran at the prince, causing his horse to rear in fright. The prince was thrown and landed heavily on the ground. Balgansang pursued the pigs, completely ignoring the prince who shouted "Yo! Yo! Balgansang! Why don't you come to help me mount my horse!"

Balgansang turned his head toward the prince and said, "Flesh fallen on the ground is foul! I shouldn't pick it up," and galloped away.

* * *

THE LAZY MAN

Long ago there was a lazy man who didn't like to work. He lived completely dependent on his wife. One day the wife went to visit her parents and her husband had to eat food that had been previously cooked and drink cold water. The man also defecated and urinated in his yurt. Fortunately he had a dog and the dog was very hungry those days because no one would feed it so the hungry dog ate the man's shit. The man was delighted with this arangement and continued to shit in his yurt.

One day a passerby stopped at the yurt and found the man's shit lying about. The passerby was astonished and asked, "How did you become sick and get to be in such a sad condition?" The lazy man replied, "I only shit in my yurt because I believe my dog will eat it."

* * *

THE WISE MAN AND THE SILLY MAN

A wise man and a silly man traveled together one night. The silly man suddenly stopped and shouted, pointing in front of them, "Wolf!" The wise man said, "Alas, it really is coming toward us," and ran back at his fastest. Then the silly man said, "No, no, please come on. That is no wolf, only a big rock."

The wise man stopped running and said, blinking his eyes, "Yes, My Fool, how can the wolf block the way?" and assumed the demeanor of a know-it-all and they went on their way.

* * *

THE WHIPMAN AND THE HORSEMAN

Criminals often gave bribes to the judge's whipping man and then when the time came for the criminal to be punished, the whipping man would give them a light whipping. One time a horseman was wrongly accussed of stealing some horses and was sentenced to be whipped. When the whipping man was about to whip him, the horseman secretly showed a finger to him, in order to avoid the danger that the whipping would be so severe that it would wound his body. The whipping man saw the secret sign and thought, "He wants to send me one horse." Then he gave the horseman a very light whipping.

Later, the whipping man went to the horseman and wanted to take one horse. The horseman said, I didn't want to give you a horse. I only expressed that I have just one life and asked for your help." Thus the whipping man could take nothing.

* * *

THE GOSSIPING WOMAN

Long ago there lived an old man and his wife. They had three daughters-in-law. The youngest daughter-in-law was an inveterate gossip, willing to talk about everything and anything. The old man thought highly of this characteristic and put her in charge of household affairs.

One day the old man went to the market and when he returned it was time for supper. He sat down and started to eat his meal. In the first mouthful, he found a rock and asked, "Who cooked the meal today?" The youngest daughter-in-law didn't know that the old man had found a stone in his food and answered hastily, "I cooked the meal." The father-in-law then said, "There is much gravel in the rice today." The youngest daughter-in-law then understood that the old man was criticising the person that had cooked the meal and changed her answer, "The eldest sister-in-law washed the rice."

The old man then said, "The food has a burned smell." The woman responded, "The second sister-in-law made the fire to hot."

"Then what did you do?"

"I took out the rice for weighing."

"The rice is more than usual, we will have to eat leftovers tomorrow."

"Mother-in-law was the one who read the marks of the scale."

THE LAMA WHO PERFORMED GOOD WORKS

An avaricious and stingy lama who was anxious about his pupils often taught them, "You are pupils of God, thus you must always do good work. I you do not, God will punish you."

One day a hen belonging to one of the lama's neighbors came inside the lama's courtyard. The lama saw it and kept it from returning and, a bit later, the hen layed an egg. On another day, a calf belonging to another neighbor also entered the lama's courtyard. The lama tied the calf in his courtyard and collected its dung which was later used for fuel. Another time an elder pupil and three younger pupils ate food intended as an offering to God. The lama learned of this and was very angry, saying, "I often have taught you to do good works. Why did you eat the offerings to God?" and prepared to beat them. Just at that moment the elder pupil fell upon his knees and implored, "Dear Teacher, for some it is good work to restrain the hen from returning home and forcing her to lay an egg. And for some it is good work to tie up a calf and then use its dung. Why can't we eat food intended for God, after God has eaten his fill?" "Surely it doesn't mean that we are doing evil?" The lama then realized that his secret had been discovered and had nothing to say for himself.

The lama continuously insisted that his pupils do everything according to the scriptures. One day, a younger pupil suffered from a very serious headache and needed to see a doctor. But the lama opened a scripture and said, "It is dangerous to see a doctor today," because he was reluctant to spend money on the pupil. The next day another pupil received information telling him that one of his relatives had fallen gravely ill and so he wished to return home. But the lama again consulted his scriptures and anncouced, "No one can leave our temple these days. If anyone does leave it will be possible that we may suffer some extreme misfortune," and didn't allow the pupil to go to his home. The lama was worried that if he let the pupil return home, some household chores would not get done.

One day, when several pupils were together they talked about their misfortune. Then, suddenly they heard the cry of their teacher, "Help! Help me!" The pupils went to the place where the voice of their teacher was coming from and discovered that the lama had fallen into a dry well and was in danger of dieing. The oldest pupil pretended to be worried and said, "Let's go consult the scriptures in order to see if we can help someone from the well today!" And then the pupils walked away from the well.

* * *

THE MISERS

There was a person who was very stingy and only thought about how to get something from others and never thought about giving things to others. Because of this he was called, "Small Miser" by others. Hearing this, he questioned why others called him so and wondered to himself, "Is there a 'Great Miser' in the world? I thought my own stinginess was the greatest in the world." He then decided to find the 'Great Miser' and to learn from him how to become more stingy so that he too, would become a 'Great Miser', and therefore richer. But he was concerned about the gift he should give the Great Miser, in exchange for learning from him.

If he went to the Great Miser without any gifts, he would lose face. "But," he thought, "It is a pity to send some gifts to the Great Miser so I shall present a small gift. Yes, a small gift. I shall present him with a moon cake." Then he took a writing brush and paper and drew a moon cake and decided to use this as a substitute for a real moon cake. He thought that this was very clever and only he was capable of such a brilliant idea and then went off to search for the Great Miser.

He found the Great Miser's family but the head of the household was out. The son received the Small Miser and came to learn what he wanted. The son asked, "Did you bring some gift for my father?" The Small Miser said, "Yes, I have a moon cake for your father. You know that I am a small miser, so I prepared an image of a moon cake in order to economize," and presented the drawing to the son.

The son saw the drawing and said, laughing loudly, "You are certainly a small miser. Don't you know it's a pity to waste paper, ink and labor? You would have better just made some gesture," and with his fingers the son suggested the dimensions of a big moon cake.

The Small Miser saw the son's gesture and admired his knowledge of stinginess and thought, "I never found such a wise way. The Great Miser certainly possesses great knowledge of stinginess. Now I have already learned something from his son, though I was unable to meet the Great Miser. I have achieved my aim." And then he returned to his home.

After several days, the Great Miser returned and his son told him about the Small Miser's visit, "His knowledge of stinginess is very limited and he will surely die from hunger sometime in the future." His father asked. "What did you tell him?" The son said, "I said that it was a pity to waste paper, ink and labor when you can just gesture," and then repeated his earlier gesture of a large moon cake. The father was very angry and slapped his son's face and said, "You also will die of hunger in the future. You should have only made a small gesture," indicating a small moon cake and demonstrated. Then he was consumed with sadness about his son's future and sighed.

QUEEN ALUNGAWWA TEACHES HER CHILDREN

Long long ago there lived a queen named Alungawwa who lived with her four sons. She was very proud of her sons because they were clever, brave and hard working. But the queen became puzzled as the sons matured, for they became arrogant and even began to sneer at one another.

One day the queen brought some arrows and called her four sons. She asked each to break one arrow. They were surprised but complied and easily broke their arrows. Then the queen asked them to break several arrows together. All of her sons tried but in vain to do so.

Then the queen explained to her sons, "You are adults now, you are brave and clever and hard working. But if you don't unite and help each other, others will easily defeat you and you will be broken just like a single arrow. But no one can defeat you if you unite and become as several arrows.

The sons heeded the queen's advice and after that time helped each other in every way and later they became the most famous and powerful family in Mongolia and in the world.

* * *

TWO THIEVES

Long ago two men set out on a lengthy journey, but before they reached their destination, they ran out of food and nearly perished of hunger. They then realized that the only way to live was to steal. So the two men, who had never done this before, crawled towards a pen where some herdsmen were keeping their sheep. As they neared the fence, one felt that he had to cough and murmured to the other, "I'm going to cough. What shall I do?"

"My God! Just cough like an old sheep, otherwise the owner will discover us!" the other hissed. So the man coughed, "Ahi, ahi, ahi, ahi," which he thought sounded very much like the cough of an old sheep. But the owner had already discovered that somebody was trying to steal his sheep. Then he shouted, "Help! Help! Thieves! Thieves!" and ran cut to catch them. One of the thieves escaped but the one who had coughed was caught by the owner. He tried to escape, but in vain because the herdsman was holding fast to his ear.

The man who had escaped shouted, "Ah, what's happened? Come quickly!" The other man replied, "How can I come quickly, I've been captured."

"Why can't you get rid of his hand?"

"No! He's holding me by my ear. I can't move!"

"Oh, it's lucky that he's holding you by the ear. Be careful so that he doesn't hold you by the nose."

This last piece of advice gave the owner the idea that it was better to hold the would-be thief by the nose. So he released the man's ear to grasp him by the nose, at which moment the man easily escaped.

* * *

THE BUDDHA WHO STOLE BUTTER

Many years ago, there lived a rich man who gave little food to his servant. The servant worked all day and had little to eat. He was always hoping to run away, but he was very weak and had no money for the journey, even if he were able to escape. So he stayed at his master's, day after day. One day, as he walked in the room where the family bowed to the Buddha, he found much sugar, cake, cheese, and butter spread in front of the Buddha image. Though he was eager to eat the food, he was afraid of being found by others during the daytime. So he waited till the sun went down and everyone had retired for the night, then he slipped out from his room and went directly to the Buddha room.

He put a little of these foods into the Buddha image's mouth and ate all the rest, then returned to his room for a comfortable sleep. The next morning, when the rich man found that there was no food in the container in front of the Buddha image, he became very angry and asked his wife if she had offered any food to the Buddha. His wife was surprised because she was sure that she had offered much food to the Buddha image. But when she ran to the room where the image was kept, she understood for the image's mouth was full of these foods. She explained to her husband with great excitement that the Buddha image had eaten the food.

Afterwards, the wife put out more food and the servant would eat it in the evening. Once, the servant thought that he should find some more food to prepare for his escape. Now the Buddha room was cooler than the other rooms and the wife stored butter and dried meat in it. The servant saw this as being a fine opportunity and put some butter and dried meat into the Buddha's mouth and took the other for himself.

The next morning the rich man discovered that the butter and meat in the Buddha room were all gone. He asked his wife if she had moved them. Her answer was in the negative. In the end, they found some of the butter and meat in the Buddha's mouth. The rich man was so infuriated that he destroyed the Buddha image with one blow.

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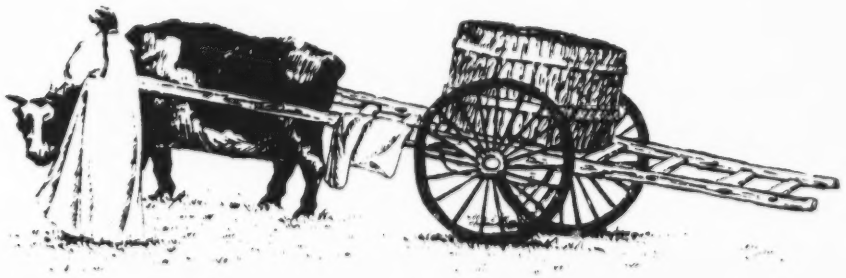

THE SILVER BOX

Many years ago, there was a beautiful orphan girl who lived by sewing. She was so skilled that every family would invite her to make robes for them. Thus she became famous in that area and one day the king asked her to make a robe for his son. The beautiful girl sewed very carefully in fear of being punished for making a bad robe. But the more she tried to be careful, the more her hands trembled and the robe, in the end, was not a good one. But the prince liked it very much and asked his servant to hire the young girl as his seamstress. Then the girl moved to the palace to make clothes for the prince.

In fact the prince not only liked the girl's sewing, but also loved her beauty. Thus the young girl and the prince fell in love with each other and stayed together all the day. The king became vexed when he heard that his son had fallen in love with a girl of poor circumstances and ordered that the girl should be driven from the palace. The prince then declared that he would go anywhere to stay with the beautiful girl. Realizing that he could not separate the two young people, the king ordered his son to the border area to fight the intruding enemy. The prince, who knew that he could not escape this assignment, sent his sweetheart a silver box and said, "You must never open this silver box. As long as this silver box glitters, I am safe and well. If this silver box becomes rusty, you may know that I am dead and you should stop waiting for me. The important thing is that you must never open the box." Then he left.

The young girl guarded the precious box with much care and was happy every time she saw that the box glittered. One day a rich man asked the girl to make a robe for his daughter, who was soon to wed. The young girl went to the rich family and there met many sewing women. These women saw the silver box and opened it with great curiosity. The girl, knowing the silver box was opened, tried to close it but the things inside the box had already escaped, for in that box all bad and evil things were locked. And now, all these bad things had emerged and harmed people: lies and gossip.

Not long after this, the girl heard that the prince was killed in battle. The girl could not bear this sad news and then looked at the silver box which was still glittering, but broken because it had been opened.

The prince, who was fighting bravely at the border heard other news, that his girl was no longer waiting for him but had married another young man. The prince could not believe this, for he knew how much the girl loved him, and he came back to see if it was true. Upon his arrival, the news of the girl's death awaited him. Thus these innocent young people were harmed by the bad things which came out of the silver box.

THE OX, THE DONKEY, AND THE HORSE

Long ago, an ox, donkey, and a horse lived together. The ox pulled the plough, the horse pulled a cart for transport and the donkey powered the mill for threshing the grain. The three were jealous of each other because each thought his own work was difficult while the work of the others was easy. One day, after leaving work, they discussed their work. The ox said, "I'm together with the plough all day long and there is nothing interesting about it. How interesting Horse's work is. You can pull your cart and go to different places and enjoy the scenery of lovely mountains and lakes."

"My work is not so interesting and I am usually very tired because I have to walk such long distances. I think Donkey's work is easy to do. You needn't go outside and can always stay in a room," returned the horse.

"When I go to the mill room, my eyes are covered by a man and I can see nothing. I only walk around the mill continuously. I frankly envy the both of you your work. You both are very fortunated indeed," decided the donkey.

"It is certainly best to pull the cart."
"No. It is certainly best to work in the mill."
"No. It is certainly best to pull the plough."

The three quarrel_ed about it and everyone firmly believed his point of view was the correct one. "Let's change jobs with each other. How is this idea?" suggested the horse. The other two agreed and the next ay the three began their new jobs. The ox pulled the cart, the horse powered the mill, and the donkey pulled the plough.

After finishing one day's work they discussed their new vocations. The ox admitted, "I'm really silly! Why did I want to pull the cart? The man wanted me to go as quickly as the horse and I had to run and had not time to appreciate the scenery of the mountains and lakes."

"I had thought that it was best to power the mill, But if you don't work very hard and break out in a sweat, the wheel won't turn and the grain won't become flour," said the horse shaking his head.

"I shouldn't have changed work with the ox. Although it seems that pulling the plough would be slow work, pulling the plough for a long time makes you very tired and I don't have the strength of the ox," said the donkey with deep regret.

"You both wanted to change jobs," complained the ox with irritation. "Pleae don't bring it up," the horse sighed. "The three of us thought the work of the other was easy but now we understand that everyone's work is difficult. If you don't use strength, no job will complete itself. So Brother Ox, please continue to pull you plough and plant grain. You have great strength though you are slow. Brother Donkey, please continue to

power the mill, you are good at moving and turning quickly. And I will pull my cart, because I have some strength and can walk with speed."

From that time on the three have been doing their work and have never thought that the work of the other was easy.

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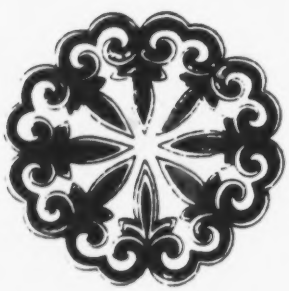

THE MOTHER AND HER SON

A long time ago a mother lived with her son. One day the son became ill. A sore grew in the son's throat and the mother felt sad for her son's misfortune and prayed daily, "God, if you want to do something to us, please tell me and afflict me. Please don't afflict my son with a disease. If the God of Death wants someone, please take me, an old woman, and don't take my son."

One afternoon, the mother was washing some bowls and a pot and then, after finishing, poured the dishwater into a jar and put it outside. The next dawn, a white dog came to the house looking for something to eat. He smelled the dishwater and put his head inside the jar. When the dog finished drinking the dishwater and tried to pull out his head he found that he couldn't. The dog shook his head several times and ran about and then ran into the house. Because it was dawn and not possible to see clearly, the mother could only discern a strange animal which had a black head and white body, and was nearly frightened to death.

"God, the person whom you want is sitting there. I am not the one you want. If you want him, please take him and go," said the mother, pointing at her son who was crawling to a corner of the house. Then the son recognized that it was a dog and laughed loudly, observing his mother's fright. When he laughed the sore in his throat burst and the corruption ran out.

The son's throat then became well and the mother and her son lived together happily.

* * *

WHAT THE DRUM WAS MADE OF

Long ago there lived a liar who always told tall tales. He went to a family and boasted, "I have seen a great drum. It is so huge that when someone knocks on one side of the drum, someone standing at the other side of the drum can't hear it." The old man of the family smiled and said, "Oh, it's not very big. He put his front foot on one side of a hill and his rear foot on the other side of the hill."

The visitor criticized the old man for telling lies to which the old man said, "What was the drum you saw made of except the skin of the ox I saw when I was young?" The liar could only sit in silence.

* * *

THE MISER

Long ago there lived a rich man who had no relatives except one foolish son. The father didn't like to do any work and liked to make deals to get more profits. Thus, people called him, "Miser." The miser went to a city and saw someone was selling firewood. He thought, "I also can sell firewood and get more money!" After returning home, he prepared an axe and sickle and with his silly son went to a mountain to cut wood.

After crossing some ravines and not finding any wood, a tiger approached and roared loudly. The miser was frightened and lay down to hide among some rocks. The tiger pounced on the miser's back and smelled him as though he were curious about man's smell. The miser was very anxious and shouted, "Help!" The silly son came and swung his axe at the tiger. But the father yelled, "Don't cut the skin of the tiger! The silly son thought this idea was attractive and went to find a stick. When he was about to beat the tiger, his father said, "If we sell a living tiger on the market we will make several times as much money as we would earn from the skin of the tiger."

"This idea is very good. People at the city will certainly like a living tiger very much," thought the son and went off to get his rope. When he returned he found that the tiger had already taken his father and gone.

* * *

DEBATING PHILOSOPHIC THEORY

Long ago there were two lamas. One was named 'Left Lama' and the other was called'Right Lama'. Left Lama researched the scriptures and taught his pupils Ganjur and Danjur scriptures and was a well-known scholar and fortune-teller. Right Lama in contrast, was skilled at eating, had little knowledge and never taught his pupils anything but how to cut wood and cook.

One day a pupil of Right Lama went to Left Lama and said, "My teacher has never taught any knowledge. I know you have great knowledge so I would like to be your pupil." Left Lama listened to this and sent Right Lama a letter, challenging him to a debate of Buddhist philosophy in order to see if Right Lama had any knowledge.

Right Lama was worried after receiving the letter and opened his books which had been covered with dust for a long time and tried to read, But he could not understand the meaning of the sentences. Then a butcher came to his door, carrying pork on his sholder, and asked, "Respectful lama, there is good pork today. How much would you like?"

Right Lama shook his head and said with anger, "I don't want any! I don't want any! Please go to some other place and sell your pork!" The butcher was surprised and thought, "Before, the lama only ate and drank and never read books. Why does he read books today?" and said, "Even if you become God, you can't escape the need to eat and drink. You can read after you eat and drink fully."

"I am not in the mood for eating and drinking. I am about to debate someone. But, I don't know what to do," said the lama sighing and then he showed the letter to this butcher.

The butcher read the letter and laughed and said, "Oh, my Dear Lama, so you are worried over such a trifle. It is easy for me to refute him!" "Oh dear, what good idea do you have?" asked the lama hurriedly. The butcher cut a piece of pork to give the lama saying, "Please give your robe to me and wait for me. Please cook this pork. I am going to debate that lama for you."

Right Lama agreed with the butcher beause he had no ideas of his own. The butcher draped the robe over his shoulders and sat on the lama's chair to wait for the arrival of Left Lama. With the robe, the butcher resembled a great lama. Left Lama then entered in a haughty manner, stood, and then silently held up one finger. 'Right Lama' returned two fingers in silence. In response Left Lama raised three fingers to which 'Right Lama' showed five fingers. Left Lama then stroked his beard quickly to which 'Right Lama" answered by patting his hair and bending backwards. Seeing this, Left Lama ran away and returned to his home. He went to his temple and called the pupil who had reported his teacher's little knowledge and who had said that he wished to become Left Lama's student. Left Lama said, "You, a

pupil have eyes but fail to preceive your teacher's knowledge. Don't belittle your teacher's knowledge. Your teacher's knowledge is several-fold that of mine." Then the lama told the pupil about the debate, "After I entered his room, I showed one finger which means that there is only one Sakyamani in the world. Your teacher then showed two finger, meaning, 'Aren't there two Maitreya gods?' Then I displayed three fingers signifiying, 'Aren't the gods of three time periods?' Then he showed five fingers implying, "Aren't there more gods--the five Sahia Gods?' At this point I stroked my beard suggesting that there are more gods than the hair of my beard. Then Right Lama parted his hair which meant that there are actually more gods than number of hears on a head. In the end I had nothing more to communicate so I went away. You should learn from your teacher and not from me."

After Left Lama fled, Right Lama came in very anxiously and asked the butcher how the debate had gone. The butcher laughed and said, "He came here and showed one finger meaning, "Is the lard of your pork one finger thick?" Then I responded by showing him two fingers meaning that the fat is two finger thick. Next he asked, in the same manner, if I had pork for three coins. I answered that the price was five coins. He then inquired if I had removed the hair on the pork carefully and I answered that I had cleaned even the hair of the head and feet of the animal. Then he left. Perhaps he thought he was already defeated in bargaining with me over the pork and fled." Then the butcher ate and drank with Right Lama.

* * *

THE OFFICIAL'S SON

An official had only one son and whished for him to inherit his official position after his own death. But the son was exceedingly simple so the official began to think of ways to overcome this problem. One day he decided that the son should marry a wise woman and then the woman could help his son solve the problems he would meet. He thought that there could be a curtain behind the son's chair and the wife could sit behind the curtain and give some good advice to the son when he needed help.

The secret that the son was simple spread among the people and someone decided to see if the son was really silly. So, he bit the palm of his hand and went to the son, saying that another had bit his palm. The son prepared to make a judgement on the case and sat on his chair. His wife told him quietly from behind the curtain that the wound on the palm must be selfinflicted because another person could not have bitten the palm. She went on to explain that if the wound had been on the back of the hand it could have been done by another person.

Then the son asked the person, "Did the person bite the palm of your hand or the back of your hand?"

"He bit the palm of my hand."

"If you were bitten on the palm you must have done it yourself." And with that the case was closed and everyone began to think that the son was not silly after all.

After the wife returned to her parents' home, it so happened that two people fought and one was wounded on the forehead. He went to the son and said, "Someone injured my forehead." The son said, "You must have bitten your own forehead." The injured man asked, "How could I bite my own forehead?" The son angrily replied, "If you stood on some high thing, couldn't you bite your own forehead?"

THE LAMA'S TALE

Long ago there was a lama who resided at his temple and roamed about visting many families and leading a loose life. He was gifted at eating, had little knowledge of the scriptures, and always put on a big show. If some family members did not entertain him well he would say something like, "Please beware, it is possible for your luck to have a downturn," which would frighten the family and then he would leave.

Everyone in time came to know his moral standing and didn't respect him and when they received him, they only gave him thin gruel, though he put on an extravagant show. One evening, he went to a family and found the husband had gone to transport salt and the wife was alone in the home. The wife made tea, though she really didn't want to. But the lama had come and it was unthinkable not to serve tea. While the wife prepared the tea, the lama repidly examined the contents of the home and located the butter, cheese, and dried meat hidden in a case. The lama reflected to himself, "I have the good fortune to be able to eat fully today," and waited for the tea.

The wife boiled the tea and poured it into a porcelain cup, adding a few grains of dried roasted millet. She didn't offer him any of the good food he had found secretly hidden away. While the lama drank the tea, he thought of a way to get the good food. When the wife stood and offered to fill his cup with tea he said, "Don't speak," gazing at the corner of the room, "Why do you want to say that? Of course, as a family they have such things." The wife ws so frightened that she dropped her ladle and said, "Lama Guai, what are you talking about?" The lama replied, "Oh, nothing. I wasn't talking to you. I was saying something to this fellow."

"I can't see anything! What did you bring here with you?"

"Oh, nothing. I always lead a spirit. Other people can't see it. Why dont you obey me and sit in silence!!" This last was shouted by the lama, looking again at the corner of the home. "Don't look at those things!" the lama continued.The wife hearing this, was worried and asked, "Dear Lama Guai, what is it saying? I'm overcome with fear."

"Oh, it's nothing. The fellow only said that there are butter, cheese, and dried meat in your case. It is unreasonable. Every family has things put away and there is nothing to be concerned about," the lama told her earnestly.

"The wife opened the case and put much good food in front of the lama. The lama ate and then slowly pushed the table away. Then it was night and the lama said, wiping his mouth, "I am leaving. Another family had invited me to visit tonight," and pretended to leave. The wife didn't perceive the lama's real intention and pleaded with him, "Can't you leave tomorrow, leading that thing which others can't see? Can't you sleep here tonight and drink tea in the morning and then leave?" The lama answered in high spirits, "I don't think that I should refuse you kindness," and

then began to undress in preparation for sleep.

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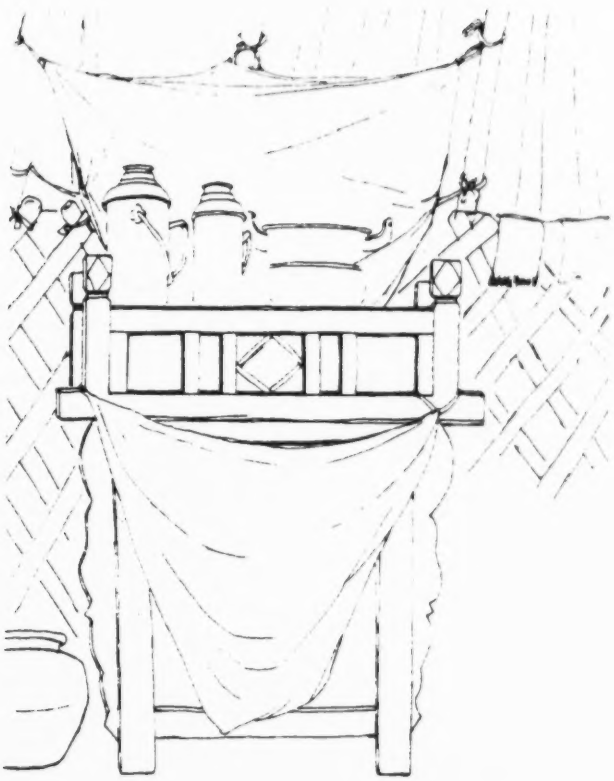


AGDANGA ZANGY

Long ago there lived an avaricious and greedy officer whose name was Agdanga. He wa so greedy that he would even take the meat of dead animals, though he had so many animals that they covered the grassland. He not only oppressed the people but also tortured his wives and children. And his temper was so bad that no one liked to have contact with him.

Balgansang herded Zangy's horses and, as luck would have it, Agdangya's youngest wife was attracted to his stature and vivid bearing. The wife didn't like to make merry with Agdanga Zangy whose age was around seventy years, had white hair, and who had such a nasty temper. She desired to seek pleasure with Balgansang. So she often went to Balgansang and spoke something to express her love and flirted with him.

But Balgansang didn't like her looks and character, so he tried to get away from her and didn't want Agdanga to see him with her. Thus the wife came to hate Balgansang and her love for him turned to hostility because she couldn't have her way. The wife thought to herself, "Balgansang, as you have tortured me, I will make your life uncomfortable." Then she said to her husband, "I heard Balgansang is often idling about, visiting families, drinking and is utterly unconcerned about our horses." The Zangy, who had already heard about his youngest wife's desire for Balgansang and was planning to punish him, now had an excuse to realize his plan and said, pleasing his wife, "Oh, it's very probable. I haven't seen Balgansang recently." The wife said, "I also heard that several of our horses from the herd have been lost. My dear, please don't believe Balgansang. He is simply a cheat." Her husband then inquired, "Then what should I do?" His wife quickly answered, "You should go to check up on our horses and if there is some neglect, you can drive him away!" This vicious idea just matched the husband's own thoughts and he said, "Okay, I will go check up and see if Balgansang guards our herd of horses at night and if I'll find some error, I will beat him and chase him away. And I will also inflict a penalty upon the other herdsmen of mine."

Then he decided to execute what he had said and ordered an servant to prepare his fast horse. When the servant caught the Zangy's fast horse, he informed Balgansang as to what the zangy planned to do. Thus Balgansang understood that Agdanga and his youngest wife wanted to frame him, he caught the fastest horse in the herd and called several of his friends to come and discuss how to deal with Zangy. Then they waited for Zangy beside the horse herd.

Is was dark night and very difficult to see anything in the distance. When it had passed midnight, Agdanga went toward the horse herd, riding his fast horse and holding a catch pole. He went to his horse herd and found the horses but no Balgansang. He became furious and began to search for him on the other side of the herd, thinking to himself, "Humph! What my wife said is

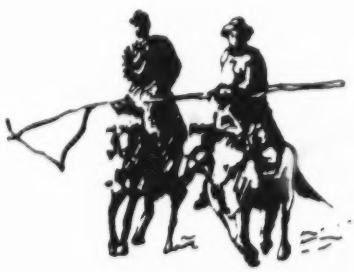
true. That blasted Balgansang must have gone to while away the time with some woman. How dare he not guard my horses! I'll drive my horses and leave this place and punish you tomorrow."

Then he prepard to drive away his horses. At this moment, the horsemen, including Balgansang, who had been hiding behind some rocks, cried out, "There is a thief in the horse herd! Stop him!" and rode their horses and caught up with him, sweeping him into many horses.

Agdanga lay on the back of his horse in order not to be recognized and tried to find a way to escape. But the herdsmen pretended they had not seen him and took turns whipping him, as if they were beating the horses. The horsemen continued to pursue Agdanga and then it was nearly daylight. Zangy whipped his fast horse and managed to escape from the horsemen, because he was unable to bear the whipping. But Balgansang saw him escaping and caught up with him, crying,"The thief is fleeing!" Though Agdanga's horse was fast, it was not faster than Balgansang's.

Balgansang caught up with him and prepared to encircle his body with the loop of his catch-pole saying, "Blasted Thief, you can't get away from me!" Then the zangy said, "I....I....am... your Agdanga Zangy. Please don't..." He wanted to tell the truth but Balgansang said, "Crafty Thief! Don't try to fool me! I want to take you to my Zangy!" Then he encircled Agdanga's chest with the loop of his pole, dragging him from his horse and went on to Zangy's home, pulling him behind his horse. Balgansang went to Agdanga's home and shouted, "I have caught a thief who wanted to steal our horses. I want to report to our official about this matter." The servants and maids came out of the house in a hurry and saw that the official, Agdanga, was lying there, wounded and unable to move.

So Agdanga, who had wanted to punish his servant, Balgansang, became the 'thief'and then had to lay in bed. Later, because of his rage and hatred for Balgansang and the torment from his youngest wife, his condition worsened. He didn't get up again and went to see the King of Hell.



SIX FEET ARE FASTER

An officer appointed a servant soldier to deliver an urgent official document and gave him a fast horse in order that he might finish his task quickly. But the soldier went on by foot, leading his horse, and delivered the document. Someone asked, "Why didn't you ride your horse under such urgent circumstances?" The soldier answered, "Isn't it faster to go on six feet than on four feet?"

* * *

THE KING EXAMINES HIS THREE SONS

Long long ago, there lived a king with three sons. When the sons became adult, the king realized he was getting older and older and thought that he had better examine his three sons, see whih one was the wisest, and then offer him his throne.

One day he called his three sons and first asked the eldest: "What are the sweetest, fattest, wisest things in the world?"
"The sweetest thing in the world is sugar, the fattest is the pig, and the wisest is the king," he replied.

Then the king asked his middle son the same question. The middle sons answered," The sweetest thing in the world is honey, the fattest is the sheep, and the wisest things are books."

Fimally the king asked his youngest son the same question. The youngest son responded, "The sweetest thing in the world is salt because it can give all food taste. The fattest thing in the world is the world itself because there are an unlimited number of fertile substances in the world. And the wisest ting in the world is the pen because it can record all things that happen in the form of books."

Hearing these words, the king offered his throne to his youngest son.

* * *

(Told by Pelige, Tabka Production Team, Dolan County, Haixi Prefecture, Qinghai Province)

THE TELLER OF SEVENTY LIES

Once upon a time, there was a son who often told tall tales. The tribal head heard about this and one day he called the son and said to him, "I hear that you are a good lie teller. If you can tell me seventy lies in the time it takes me to smoke this pipe of tobacco, I shall reward you with a good horse and silver saddle."

The son agreed and began to spin his yarns. "One time I rode hunting on horseback and in the mountains I found a wild yak and shot it down. But it was smaller than a fly and it was impossible for me to skin it. Then I noticed a black fly buzzing about near me and I shot it. Strangely, the black fly was very fat. Its neck had fat three fingers thick and its hips had fat five fingers thick. I boiled the black fly meat and enjoyed a delicious dinner. Before going to bed, I rubbed some fat on one of my boots but didn't rub fat on the other. Then I put the both of them under my bed sheet and went to sleep. As I lay sleeping I was awakened by a noise under the sheet. It was the two boots quarreling. One said, 'The man rubbed oil on you but not on me.' I beat the boot in the right three times and the wrong one once and then resumed my sleep. A little bit later I was awakened again by a loud clamor. I raised my head and saw that my flint and knife were fiercely quarreling.

When I got up early the next morning and prepared to put on my boots I couldn't find them anywhere. Finally I discovered that the two boots had escaped down a small road. I pursued my boots along the road and noticed two swallows fighting for a grain of wheat. I gave one measure to the right one and three measures to the wrong one and went on. At this time, I felt very thirsty and saw a brown sparrow making butter in a tree. The brown sparrow said, 'Dear brother, would you like some ireg (slightly fermented beverage made from milk--contains no butter)?' and then it gave me three bowls of ireg. I drank them and felt very sleepy so I went to sleep on the grassland under the sunshine. Suddenly there was a loud noise. I thought that it was someone cutting wood somewhere. But instead I found a thirsty lizard lying on my neck. I threw it away and continued on my way. Now, I became very thirsty ecause it was August and tried to find a spring somewhere. Strangely, the spring had become ice. I picked up a heavy stick but no matter how I tried, I couldn't break the ice. Then I wisely used my head and fortuantely the ice broke and water spurted into the air. I drank much of it and went on my way. As I was walking along, I came upon a wedding ceremony. I observed this lively gathering over a tall man's shoulder and under a small man's armpit. Meanwhile, I discovered that one of my boots was sitting in the seat of honor and that the other boot was sitting in the seat of least importance. At just that moment a man shouted, 'Will the man who has no head please sit down in the seat of honor!' I wondered who the headless man was and looked around but I coudn't find anyone without a head and everyone was laughing at me. Embarrassed, I touched my head and

found that there was no head on my shoulders! Becoming more embarrassed I said, 'I shall find my head and then sit in the place of honor.' I returned to the spring and found my pitiful head in the spring. Sadly, there were a great many insects laying eggs in the opening of my head--the nose, eyes, ears, and throat. I was very angry and picked it up and put it on my neck. Strangely my head fit perfectly--even better than before. I was delighted and walked on my way. There were no more unusual happenings.

As I was walking along a road, I found a great multitude of people. I looked about carefully and discovered that a bedbug had a terrible headache and a lot of red ant doctors were traiting it. Then I came to the sea* but I coudn't find a boat to cross it. I wisely selected a giant stone as a boat and it floated on the sea beautifully. I then successfully crossed the sea on it and on the other bank of the sea I found my grandfather's mare which I had lost previously. I mounted it and put her colt on her back but the burden was to great for her. However, the colt was able to carry me and the mare together. As I raced the colt along a road I saw some of my yaks. I picked up some stones and threw them at the horns of the hornless yaks as I came near them. Upon this sudden movement, the colt was frightened, jumped and threw me to the ground. I was afraid that someone would laugh at me so I ran to a nearby hill, but the hill could not bear my weight and began to collapse."

"But when did all this happen ?" interrupted the tribal head suddenly.

"When the ocean was a small spring.
When the huge mountains were a little mound.
When the Dalai Lama was a little boy.
When Banchang Bogda was a little monk.
When the time of my grandfather was not yet come and
I was looking after my father's horses."

When the tall tale teller finished his seventy lies the king was listening to his story as dubly as a wooden chicken and had completely forgotten to smoke his pipe.

As a result, the man won the tribal head's horse with a silver saddle and earned the glorious title 'Teller of Seventy Lies'.

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(Told by Norige (aged 63 years); a herdsman in Production Team Number Four; Nomugun Tribe, Dolan County, Haixi Prefecture, Qinghai Province.)

* Other versions of crossing the sea include:

1. "I took a bowl, got in it, and rowed across the sea using chopsticks as paddles."

2. "The next day as I passed through a place I saw that my

grandfather's white mare had fallen to the other side of the sea. I went across the sea on a ball of sheep manure. I heard two sheep quarreling intensely. One said, 'The man used on of your manure balls as a boat and not mine.' I beat the right one three times and the wrong sheep one time."

A BLIND OLD WOMAN

Once upon a time, there was a blind old woman who had some cows and horses which were being stolen. Gradually the number of her cows and horses decreased and she thought to herself, "What shall I do? It is difficult for a blind old woman to keep her livestock from being stolen." Finally she asked a shaman the best way to prevent the thefts. The shaman told her that there was no good method except to continually chant, "The livestock door is opening. You are squatting. You are standing. You are escaping." The shaman further directed, "You must say it repeatedly throughout the night."

The blind woman was very happy and did as the shaman had instructed. One night a thief came sneaking near her shed. Suddenly he heard a voice from the yurt just as he was entering the shed. "The livestock door is opening." He thought that someone had found him and he quickly squatted on his heels. Just at that time the old woman sang out, "You are squatting." The thief believed that someone had found him and at that moment he stood up and wished to verify if he had been discovered. "You are standing," rang out the third verse. The thief feared that someone had truely found him and would capture him. As he quickly ran through the door he heard, "You are escaping." It was the old woman's fourth verse. Running for all his might, he escaped. From that time, the blind old woman's livestock were very safe and she lived a happy life ever after.

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(Told by Chaomu; Tourai Production Team; Taiginar Tribe; Goldmud County, Haixi Prefecture, Qinghai Province)

THE GOAT-TAIL SON

A long time ago there was an old childless couple who had only seven goats and a two year old cow. When they felt that their work was very difficult for aged people to do they often said to each other, "How nice it would be if we had a child." One day they invited a shaman and asked him "Is it possible or not for us to gain a child?" The shaman silently pondered for a while and then said, "You should kill the one hornless goat among your seven goats and then eat the meat and drink the soup. After that you should bury the tail in the ground of your yurt's right side and in the night you should sleep with your head resting on the goat's head. If you two can do this, God will favor you with a child." The old couple did as the shaman had directed. They killed their one hornless goat, ate the meat, drank the soup and buried the tail under the right side of the yurt. In the night, they slept using the goat head as a pillow and kept up their hopes and dreams. One year later the goat tail became a little son. He was as small as a human ear because he had originally been a tail. His parents called him the 'Goat-tail Son'. The son was very wise and intelligent and helped his parents collect firewood and took care of the goats.

One day as the goat-tail son was preparing to go out and graze the goats he said to his mother, "Today I want to ride on the small cow."

"You may but you must not get down from the black cow and you can not sit on a prickly vine," his mother answered. Then the son rode on the black cow and went out to herd. When he was far from his home he thought, "Why did my mother say I shouldn't dismount the cow and shouldn't sit on a prickly vine? I would like to try to do just those things." So he got down from the back of the black cow and sat on a prickly vine. At the same time as the black cow was eating the prickly vine, she swallowed the son.

That evening the old couple waited anxiously for their son but there was no sign of him. They found the black cow and goats and thought, "It is certainly likely that our son was swallowed by the black cow." So they killed the cow and searched in the stomachs of the cow but they didn't look in the rumen. Then they took out the rumen. Because they had not found their son anywhere else they decided that he must be there! Just as they were about to search in the rumen, a crow picked it up and flew off. As it was flying in the sky, the rumen became loose in the crow's grip and fell to the ground. While it was lying on the ground a grey wolf happened along, picked it up and swallowed it. Soon the wolf felt that it had an intense stomachache and could hardly bear the pain. It went to a shaman and asked, "I found a small piece of meat and swallowed it and now I have a bad stomachache and feel that someone is moving in my stomach. What do you think about this?"

The shaman replied, "You should drink as much salty water from

the lake as you can and then go in a westerly direction to empty your bowels. Then your stomach will stop hurting. The wolf did as the shaman had directed. He drank as much salt water as he could and went in a westerly direction emptying his bowels. The stomach of the wolf was then relieved and soon he felt no pain in his stomach.

The goat-tail son picked himself out of the wolf's stool, washed himself, and returned home. His parents were very angry when they saw him and said, "You stupid son, why didn't you do as we said. You are a helpless and troublesome person." The parents punished him by turning him out of their home. The goat-tail son left and thought, "How can I live?" He found a shaman and asked him how he could support himself. The shaman said, "You were swallowed by the black cow, and the wolf thought you were meat and you entered the wolf's stomach. But you were safe. So you can live as a thief and steal from the king. You may become especially rich if you can steal the king's golden ring.

The goat-tail son came near the shed of the king and saw two men sitting there.

"What are you doing?"
"We are going to steal something from the King's palace. Where are you going?"
"I want to steal something too."
"Then we'll steal together."
"Alright, but what things shall we steal?"
"I think stealing the cows is best."
"I think you two are too big to steal anything. You keep quiet and I'll steal for you."

Then the goat-tail son went to the king's cow shed and stole a riding ox and a meat ox and then left. He rode on the ox and lead the other out to where the two men were waiting. "You should kill the meat ox and load the meat on the riding ox," he suggested. The two men then killed the ox and skinned it immediately. As they prepared to load it on the other ox they asked, "Little boy, what kind of and how much meat would you like?" "Oh, I want the lightest and softest part-- the lungs and the spleen. Just as the two men were starting away the goat-tail son said to them, "When I stole the oxen it seemed that the king's guards discovered me. If you notice some strange sound, you must leave the ox and meat and escape." "Yes, we will do as you say," answered the two men and then they left.

Soon after the two had departed, the goat-tail son entered the spleen and made a noise. The two men heard the sound and suspected it was the king's guards. "We should escape! The king's guards are after us!" they excalimed and escaped. Then the goat-tail son lead the loaded ox to his home. His parents saw that their son had brought much meat and an ox for them. They were pleased and said, "Though our child is so small he can do such great things." The son said to his parents, "Becaue I am little, it is convenient for me to be a thief. I heard that the king has a golden ring. If I can steal that we would be richer than at present. Now I shall go to steal it."

After the king had been burglarized one of his shamans warned, "It is unimportant that your oxen have been stolen. What is

imortant is that your golden ring should not be stolen tonight. You should take care." The king heard this and had his first and second wifes sleep on the right side of the yurt and his third and fourth wives slept on the left. In addition, the red and black dogs were tied on either side of the yurt door. Two white goring rams were tied on both sides of the small yard's gate. Two kicking mules were tethered on the two sides of the middle yurt's gate. Two snapping camels were tied on either side of the large yurt's gate and many guards surrounded the king's yurts and sheds. And, when the king went to bed, he put the golden ring in his mouth and slept.

The goat-tail son silently came at midnight. Because he was too small to detect, he passed between the guards, under the snapping camel necks, between the kicking legs of the mules, killed the goring rams and gave their flesh to the king's two dogs to quiet them. Then he took a little sheep bile and put it into the king's mouth. The king tasted something very bitter and vomitted, sending forth the bile and the gold ring. The goat-tail son took it and immediately escaped. He gave the golden ring to his parents and from then on they lived a happy life together.

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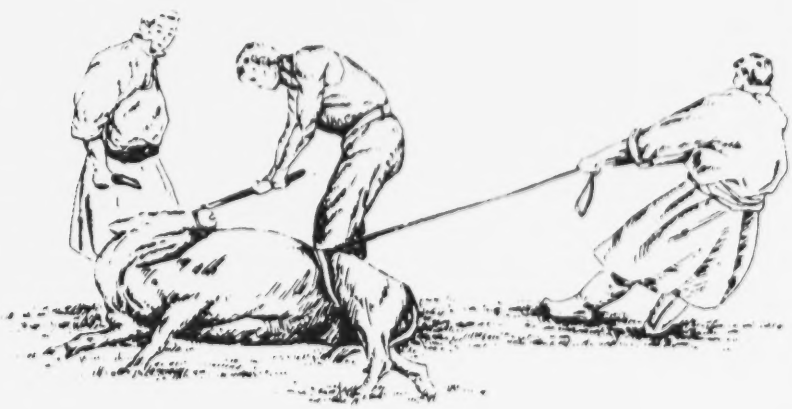
(Told by Aja (aged seventy-two years); Tosuto Production Team, Zunula Tribe, Ulan County, Haixi Prefecture, Qinghai Province)